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THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2012

BIENVENUE! WELCOME TO PORTHCAWL

ABOVE: Porthcawl hosted an under-16 rugby team from its 'twin' town in France – to read about the tour, turn to page 8.

BARRICADED HIMSELF IN ATTIC AND CLIMBED ONTO HOUSE ROOF

Man sentenced after 5-hour Brackla 'siege'

A FIVE-HOUR siege took place in Bridgend when a man barricaded himself in an attic.

Adam Green (18) climbed onto the roof of a house, removed and threw tiles, and threatened to start a fire.

CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

Green, of Glendower Close, Brackla, was sentenced to 32 weeks detention in a young offender institution.

He admitted charges of affray and causing criminal damage.

He was also in breach

of a suspended sentence for causing criminal damage and a conditional discharge for a similar offence.

Judge Huw Davies, QC, said: "You have offended at a prolific rate because you have been

abusing alcohol. In drink, your behaviour is dangerous and disturbing.

"This was a disturbing catalogue of offences. When intoxicated, you cause distress and fear to people who cause you no harm.

"The sentence has to be of significant length."

Prosecutor Joanna James said that on March 23, Green went to his mother's home and requested but was refused money. He was drunk.

He left and returned and made the same request, this time begging for money. At one point, he banged his head on the floor, ripped a mobile phone from his mother and broke it. He left and

the police were called.

At the time, he was subject to a curfew and was arrested.

On March 28, he went to a house in Bridgend, where there was a young woman with a young child.

Green, who was with another man, pushed his way into the house. He was asked to leave, but produced a hammer, which was wrested from his grip.

Miss James said he left but returned.

The police later learned that he was hiding in the attic of a house in Clos Dan y Celyn.

He was found to be in the attic and barricaded the trapdoor with boxes. Over the next five

hours, said Ms James, he damaged the ceiling of the house, before climbing onto the roof, where he threw tiles, one of which smashed the windscreen of a car.

"Some residents were removed when he threatened to start a fire," said Miss James.

The value of the damage was £5,000.

His counsel, Mike Hammett said: "He knows it has to be immediate custody. Nobody was hurt in the incident, more by luck than judgement."

"He is genuinely remorseful. The root cause of his problem is alcohol. When sober, he is pleasant and productive, but he started drinking at the age of 12. He is now addressing his problem."



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Surfer tangled in kite is rescued by lifeboats

See page 8 for the full story.



FINAL DONATION

THE final donation made by a Merthyr Mawr charity was given to the local foodbank in Bridgend recently.

(To read the full story, please turn to page 4).

STREET DANCE CLASSES

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Looking back at a year of politics

THE parliamentary year is set by the traditional set-piece event of the Queen's Speech.

Ordinarily, this happens at the start of the parliamentary year, but not always in October.

It is now almost two years since the last General Election, and the last Queen's Speech. A Queen's Speech is therefore long overdue.

A lot has happened in the last year, let alone the last two years, but the end of one legislative session offers a chance to take stock, measure progress and analyse the challenges ahead.

The next Queen's Speech will take place on May 9. What the speech will contain is open to speculation, although a few educated guesses can be made as to what will be announced.

Looking back over the last year, and the high points and low points as a Member of Parliament, sadly the lows considerably outweigh the highs.

The Queen's Speech of May 2010 set out a programme of 23 proposed bills, many of which were controversial and will have lasting effects on our public services. These changes range from establishing the principal of five-year fixed term Parliaments, introducing elected police commissioners to replace police authorities, implementing huge changes to the National Health Service in England, the welfare system, pensions and legal aid.

Many of these changes leave me fearful for vulnerable groups and how they are likely to fair over

the next few months and years. These changes are not just what we read in the press, they have real effects which drive people to get in touch with me and other agencies seeking help; whether it be a time limit on claims for contributions-based Employment Support Allowance, extending the age at which people can claim the state pension or restricting access to legal aid for victims of domestic violence, contrasted with a tax cut for higher rate taxpayers, there is a real sense of unfairness.

Nevertheless, there have been some high points, including some personal successes. After a long campaign with other MPs across the parties, and with the support of the Royal British Legion, the Government was persuaded not to abolish the office of the Chief Coroner.

The loss of this office would have represented a major setback for a number of changes that are urgently needed for the coronal system, including training for coroners and greater accountability in the system.

As yet, the Chief Coroner has not been appointed and it will be inherent upon those who campaigned to keep the office to keep the pressure up and ensure this happens.

Another success was the culmination of another drawn-out campaign, and that was to persuade the Government to allow veterans of the Malaya and Borneo campaign to wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal awarded by the Malaysian Government.

An arcane set of rules allowed the veterans to accept the medal, but not wear it. After writing

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for GEM readers.



many letters and asking questions, I was delighted that Ministers finally conceded – and veterans were given permission to wear their medals proudly at Remembrance parades.

All of this can leave you to wonder what the Government might find to put in the Queen's Speech?

Some of what will be announced will not come as a surprise. Parliament will undoubtedly be asked to consider legislation to allow for the construction of the 'High Speed 2' rail link between London and the north of England. There will also be another attempt to reform the House of Lords, to make the second chamber elected. As with previous attempts to achieve similar aims, this is likely to be a long and drawn-out process.

There is also likely to be a family law reform bill, details about which are scant, but could potentially change the law on issues such as mediation and adoption.

Aside from getting to grips with a new batch of Bills, the next few months will be busy, with organising an exhibition to mark Armed Forces Day, and conducting an inquiry into the future of local suicide prevention plans.

The exhibition is the repeat of an event I organised last year in the House of Commons, but this year will encompass the House of Lords as well. The intention behind the inquiry is to establish how suicide prevention plans in Wales, England and Scotland are working, and what their future will be, particularly in the face of budget cuts – and, in England, changes to the NHS. A report will follow in the autumn.

In the meantime, I am pleased to see my long-running campaign to highlight the abuses in Bahrain and the role of Formula 1 in giving credence to a despotic regime become a national issue.

Sport has become a political and security issue over the last few months and with the Olympic Games ahead of us, will increasingly attract public attention.

Rumour has it that Parliament will Pilogue (cease to sit after legislation is given Royal assent) after May 1. Talk about granny and pastie taxes, cuts to income for charities, VAT on church restorations and tax cuts for the wealthy will give way to a summer of pageantry.

The state opening of Parliament will be followed by the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the arrival of the world in London for the Olympics.

DOG OF THE WEEK

Can you give Marley a home?



ABOVE:

Ten-year-old Marley is looking for a new loving home.

THE GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for inmates at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

THIS WEEK: MARLEY is a 10-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier cross, who has found himself through no fault of his own.

A spokeswoman writes:

He is a very sweet gentleman, who still loves his walks.

He is looking for a quiet home with lots of cuddles, and could live with older children who understand that he likes some quiet time to rest.

He lacks confidence with other dogs, so would prefer to be the only dog in the home,

although he can make doggy friends and acquaintances.

He is house trained, and can be left for a few hours.

Having lived in a home all his life, he is getting rather stressed with the change of lifestyle in kennels, so he is currently spending his days in reception, where he gets lots of fuss and attention.

If you would like to offer this lovely man a home, call 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG.

The centre is open from 12pm-4pm Tuesday-Sunday.

We are also now open late on Wednesdays until 8pm.

Meet the new Grand Master!

IRENE CROSSES A BRIDGE LANDMARK!



ABOVE:

To mark Irene Thomas becoming a Grand Master in bridge, Steve Burgoyne, chairman of Bridgend Bridge Club, presented Irene with an engraved glass plaque.

River spring clean at Bryngarw park

MEMBERS of Bryngarw Country Park's volunteer scheme have recently given the River Garw, running through the park, a spring clean.

Dedicating two weekends to the task and benefiting from unusually low water levels, the team, supported by the park rangers, succeeded in cleaning the entire length of the river – pulling out items such as old push-bikes, traffic cones, car tyres, a wheelbarrow, as well as over 20 bin bags of litter and rubbish.

The river forms an important feature of Bryngarw House and Country Park, as well as forming part of walking trails enjoyed by many visitors each year.

It also plays host to a range of different species including dippers, kingfishers, otters, herons and Daubenton's bats. Ensuring the river is cleared of rubbish and pollution is essential in protecting their natural habitats.

The river clean-up event is part of the volunteer team's annual events programme. Established in June 2005, the Bryngarw volunteer team continue to meet once a month and make an important contribution to a range of conservation and management tasks within the park.

To get involved, call the rangers office on 01656 725155, or email bryngarwpark@bridgend.gov.uk to request a programme.

Rotarian declines supermarket dash – and charities benefit

THE winner of the recent 'Trolley Dash' raffle, organised by the Rotary Club of Porthcawl at the Co-operative Supermarket at Pyle, was Rotarian Alan Balkwill...but instead of dashing through the aisles, as in Supermarket Sweep, Mr Balkwill opted for accepting £100 in vouchers.

He promptly donated the vouchers to two of Rotary's local charities, Sandville Self Help Centre, Ton Kenfig and the KPC Youth Centre in Pyle.

Each charity received £50 in vouchers and a donation of £250 from the Rotary Club of Porthcawl.

The Sandville Self Help Centre is open to all people suffering problems of any kind and their motto is the eight Ls – listening, looking, learning, lov-



ABOVE: Pictured with the donations and vouchers, from left to right, are Alison Mawby of KPC, Rotary Club of Porthcawl's treasurer Peter Jones, and Sister Gwyneth Poacher of the Sandville Self-Help Centre.

ing; laughter will enable you to live a longer, healthier life.

Another of their sayings is: "Laughter and humour kills tumour".

The KPC Youth Centre has been helping young people in the communities of Kenfig

Hill, Pyle and Cornelly since 1998.

Both charities have internet web pages which give details of their work locally, and each has an on-line donations link.

IVOR WILLIAMS

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Dog show to aid Sandville

A COMPANION dog show will be held under KC rules and regulations on Sunday, June 17, at Bryncae Community Centre, Llanharan, in aid of The Sandville Self-Help Centre, Ton Kenfig.

Entries will be taken from 12.15pm. Judging is at 1pm prompt, (£1 per class). Classes Pedigree Puppy Sporting; Puppy non sporting; Sporting; Non

Sporting; Open.

Novelty classes:

Golden Oldies; Good Citizen Dog; Young Handlers; Best Heinz 57; Prettiest Bitch; Most Handsome Dog; Waggiest Tail; Dog most like owner; Dog in best condition; Dog judge would like to take home.

Further details from 01443 225399. Email dogshows4u@aol.com.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MAY 3)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
26 Thur	10.03	8.7	22.14	8.7
27 Fri	10.36	8.3	22.54	8.3
28 Sat	11.22	8.0	23.44	7.9
29 Sun			12.21	7.7
30 Mon	00.44	7.8	13.32	7.6
01 Tues	02.05	7.7	14.52	7.7
02 Wed	03.21	8.2	15.59	8.3
03 Thur	04.26	8.9	17.01	9.1

While THE GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Bridgend man passed off mephedrone as cocaine – COURT TOLD

TWO undercover police officers were offered cocaine in Bridgend, but Cardiff Crown Court heard that it was in fact mephedrone.

Thomas Agnew (21), a local authority worker, of Bryn Deri, Bryntirion, was sentenced to 51 weeks imprisonment, suspended for two years, made subject to a supervision order for two years, and directed to pay £250 costs.

He pleaded guilty to offering to supply cocaine and supplying mephedrone.

Said Judge John Curran: "You were prepared to rip off people who were your customers. You were not playing a lesser role but a significant role as a middle man."

"You are having what very much is your last chance."

He said if he had been dealing in cocaine, he would have gone to prison not for months, but for years.

Prosecutor John Warren said

by AJ SICLUNA

that last year, police officers carried out 'Operation Horizon' in Bridgend.

On March 19, three women police officers 'Jo', 'Tina' and 'Rachel' were acting under cover.

At about 8pm, they went to a bar, where one customer was entertaining others by exposing his genitals.

A customer introduced himself to the officers as Agnew and said he could obtain drugs for £80.

Later, Agnew approached the officers and said: "It's in a cigar box behind the phone box."

The police found the bag of white powder but the drugs were not cocaine, as initially described, but mephedrone.

On a later occasion, more drugs were supplied, this time for £50, and were left behind the garage, near a lamp post.

This again was mephedrone.

Agnew was arrested at his

home and said: "There's some weed in the kitchen cupboard."

Scales and two mobile phones were recovered.

Mr Warren said that when interviewed, Agnew said he didn't know the "customers" were undercover police officers and he was aware that he was ripping them off.

He said it was a quick and easy way to make money from women.

He was said to have convictions for causing criminal damage, threatening behaviour, assaulting the police, violent disorder, supplying cannabis and money laundering.

His barrister, Sue Ferrier, said he had been out of trouble for more than a year and had had a difficult time with a bereavement, causing him to become involved with drink and drugs.

"He is now settled and employed and says this is the happiest stage of his life."

Town plaque is just the ticket for railway station



Bridgend Town Mayor Clare Lewis presents a town plaque to station manager Stewart Keay, watched by train dispatcher Cath Jones (left) and ticket office clerk Karen Childs.

BRIDGEND
Railway Station can add another award to its trophy cabinet, courtesy of the Town Council.

Bridgend Town Mayor, Coun Clare Lewis, presented station staff with a prestigious town plaque for outstanding customer service.

The plaque completes a trio of awards for Bridgend, which was recently named International Medium-Sized Station of the Year at a ceremony in Cork. It also scooped top prize for overall customer service.

Coun Lewis said: "When visitors get off the train, this is their first impression of Bridgend – great service and a warm welcome. These awards prove our town is on the right track."

Accepting the plaque, station manager Stewart Keay said: "These awards are a credit to staff who always try to go the extra mile."

During her visit, Coun Lewis was able to inspect at first hand the station's new bridge, designed to improve access between platforms for wheelchair users and people with prams.

The project, which has taken eight months, is due for completion at the end of April.

The bridge was of special interest to the Mayor, who has a background in electrical

engineering and worked on a national programme to enhance medium-sized railway stations from Aberystwyth to Newbury.

May concert is sold out!

BRIDGEND Male Voice Choir will be performing to a full house audience in a concert at Tabernacle Church, Pontycymmer, at 7pm, on Friday, May 11.

The evening will be compered by TV newsreader Huw Edwards and will feature the school choirs of Ffaldau Primary and Ysgol Cwm Garw, together with

Meirion Davies on trumpet.

The evening is in aid of the Church Organ Restoration Fund.

In November of last year, the choir held its 50th anniversary concert at the same venue, again with Huw Edwards and the two schools, and whole evening earned rave reviews.

As a result, the tickets for this May concert have sold out completely within a few weeks of going on sale.

Road safety petition for local schools launched

A PETITION in support of the campaign to introduce road safety improvements for local schools has been launched targeting Corneli and Afon-y-Felin Primary schools and Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger.

"The speed of vehicles close to the schools is a huge concern and constant worry for parents when dropping off and collecting their children," said Scott Walford, a local resident.

Richard Granville, Chair of Afon-y-Felin Primary school, who fully supports the petition and has been busy collecting signatures at the school said: "These improvements are long overdue, I am looking forward to working with BCBC to see what can be done - perhaps with a 20 mph speed limit or another type of traffic calming measure."

Clive Tranter commented: "We have

decided to target road safety as a local issue which we can help with. We hope as many people as possible sign the petition, certainly the support here at Afon-y-Felin Primary School has been impressive, we have collected more than 40 signatures in the short time we have been here today. We will be collecting signatures at the schools and throughout the community over the next few weeks."

Liam Turner, a county borough youth councillor, who was collecting signatures for the petition at Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger said: "Many other local authorities have specific traffic calming measures around schools, so we hope the council will look at the options with us when they become aware of the number of local residents and parents who are concerned."

PORTHCAWL RNLI GAINS PERMANENT MEMORIAL

RECENTLY Madeleine Moon, the MP for Bridgend, presented the Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat Station with a new Book of Remembrance and viewing case.

They were made by students at Bridgend College, in memory of her parents Albert and Hilda Ironside.

At a short service following the presentation, the RNLI Station Padre, the Rev Phillip Masson, blessed the memorial book. Mr Philip Missen MBE, the RNLI Local Operations Manager at the station, said:

"Throughout the year, we are asked to scatter the ashes of local residents and supporters of the RNLI out at sea, in view of the Lifeboat Station."

"This Book of Remembrance will serve as a point of reflection for their families, and will provide some form of permanent recognition here at the station."



Madeleine Moon and Canon Phillip Masson at the service.

BRIDGEND SPORTS FOUR IN LINE-UP



Left to right: Kalafi Molitika, Ed Biebrach, Ben Owen and Harry Ridge.

FOUR boys from Bridgend Sports were selected to represent West Wales against East Wales on April 25.

This is a fantastic achievement as the selection process is long and hard.

The four have been selected from over 500 district players spread from all over the west Wales region.

A big thank you must also be given to their coaches and teachers, without whom it could not have been done.

KH

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Bridgend Bridge Club results

RECENT results for Bridgend Bridge Club were as follows:

April 18: First, Peter Buggden and Geoff Barnes; second, Graham Jones and Irene Thomas; third, Andrew Scott and Liam Sheridan.

April 20: First, John Henson and Terry Dolan; second, Steve Burgoyne and Liam Sheridan; third, Bill Turner and Ray Smith.

Congratulations to Colin Lewis and Alan Howells on winning the second special evening for improvers, with Norma Barber and

Moira Cuthill second, and John Evans and Stuart Davies third. There will be another event shortly.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm, there are lessons on Fridays for beginners with Graham Jones also at 7pm. Lessons for improvers will resume in the autumn; all welcome to register an interest. Contact Graham Jones 01446 775953, Steve Burgoyne 01656 661958 or David Newman 01656 649138.

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MAN ESCAPES JAIL AFTER DRUG ARREST

POLICE officers who were called to a "violent incident" in Bridgend, ended up arresting a man for a series of drugs offences, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Michael Witts was seen bare-chested, clutching a blood-stained t-shirt, said prosecutor David Thomas.

Witts (22) of Long Acres, Bridgend, pleaded guilty to supplying mephedrone and possessing the drug with intent to supply.

He was jailed for 51 weeks, suspended for two years, made subject to a one-year supervision order, and ordered to carry out

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

300 hours unpaid work.

Judge John Curran told Witts that the drug had been legally on the market until April 2010.

"The offences were aggravated by the fact that you have done it before. The offence certainly crosses the custody threshold, but it was in no sense a sophisticated operation."

He said that for the last six months, Witts had stopped taking drugs and had employment.

"I see little point in passing an immediate sentence of imprisonment," he said.

Mr Thomas said that in the early hours of

October 2, the police were called to what was thought to be a violent incident.

They spotted Witts bare-chested, waving a t-shirt covered in blood in the Long Acres area.

He said there had been an incident with a knife.

When the police went to search Witts, he backed away.

The police then found a quantity of drugs.

The total value, said Mr Thomas, was about £420, and Witts admitted having the drug with the intention of selling it.

He said he had supplied only friends for two to three weeks.

Text messages sup-

ported his admissions.

He was said to have previous convictions for being concerned in the supply of mephedrone and possessing a bladed article.

Sue Ferrier, representing him, said: "He co-operated fully with the police. He did well at school and went to university, but he fell in with the wrong crowd and started taking drugs."

"He has now learned his lesson. His family had once washed their hands of him, but they now support him and he is making a determined effort to keep on the straight and narrow."

"He has a stable relationship, and is due to be a father."

SICKNESS TRUST CHEQUES OUT



ABOVE: Left to right: Gerald and Ali, Foodbank volunteers, Coun Anne Morgan, trustee of MMST, Foodbank trustee Coun Jeff Tildesley, and Coun Iona McLaggan, also a trustee of Merthyr Mawr Sickness Trust. PHOTOGRAPH BY KEITH E MORGAN.

Bridgend Foodbank receives 'final' donation as charity is wound up

MERTHYR Mawr Sickness Trust (MMST) recently made its final donation, for £1,500, to Bridgend Foodbank, to help with its work.

Trustee Anne Morgan explained that MMST was originally set up as a result of property held in trust and administered in connection with the former Laleston and District Nursing Association, and covered the combined area of Ewenny, Merthyr Mawr and Laleston.

Its objective was to provide help to residents in need by giving financial assistance so that people could buy essential items

such as fuel and food.

When the communities of Ewenny and Laleston grew and Merthyr Mawr remained small, it was decided in December 1970 to split the original charity into three and to involve local community councils in nominating trustees.

Demand for assistance fell over the years, and subsequently, two of its long-standing trustees, Couns Murray McLaggan and Arthur Board, retired.

The new trustees, Coun Anne Morgan (chairman) and Couns Iona McLaggan and Sarah Morris, decided in 2011 to look for a suitable local charity to which the assets could be given.

After careful consideration, they felt that Bridgend Foodbank had similar aims, and also included the Merthyr Mawr area in its remit.

Anne Morgan said that it was important that the Foodbank was well run, and that there were dedicated trustees and organizers.

With the permission of the Charity Commission, the MMST was closed in March and a cheque for £1,512.74 was presented to Coun Jeff Tildesley of Bridgend Foodbank by Couns Morgan and McLaggan on April 20 at the Foodbank Centre in Nolton Street, Bridgend.

News from Pencoed Comprehensive School

BUSY TIMES AHEAD FOR DRAMA DEPARTMENT!

The cast rehearsing for Disco Inferno.



THINGS couldn't be busier for the drama and performing arts department at Pencoed Comprehensive.

With rehearsals for this year's school production, outstanding results for practical exams at GCSE and A-Level and personal successes for pupils, it has been a busy but rewarding few months.

Recently, nearly 100 pupils took part in a sponsored rehearsal for the production, which this year is *Disco Inferno*.

The school production at Pencoed is a major community event and head of drama, Kay Smith, is very keen to make it as professional as possible.

"We have so much talent here at Pencoed and *Disco Inferno* is such an energetic and exciting show, we are all looking forward to it immensely," said Kay.

The show is self-funding, so the young people involved donned platforms and flares for a

special one-off event to raise funds for the show, which runs from July 11-14.

It really does promise to present stars of the future, particularly as the leading role is being played by Harry Bruford who was recently recalled for *The X Factor*!

The drama department is known for outstanding exam results, but this year saw the introduction of a brand new course at GCSE for those wishing to specialise in performing arts.

"I am very lucky that the school allows pupils to opt for drama in one column and performing arts in another, so if students want to really go into the performing arts they can shine in both acting and perhaps another skill such as singing, dancing or even circus skills or physical theatre," said Kay.

In March, the first cohort of performing arts pupils cohort the examiner and audience with their own specially devised showcase

entitled 'Just Another Fairytale'.

However, this has not been the only practical exam and in recent weeks, four of the years have performed for examiners across the A-Level and GCSE range.

"It is a very busy time for us but I can't think of anything better than seeing pupils achieve results. Some of the work has really been degree level and taken my breath away," said Alex Milton, a drama and dance teacher at Pencoed.

Meg Matravers and Georgia Griffiths in year-12 have also been representing Pencoed at national level with both being recalled for auditions at The National Youth Theatre of Wales. A number of year-13 pupils are also busy with drama auditions at top drama colleges in London, Bristol and Liverpool.

Disco Inferno runs from July 11-14 with tickets available from the school reception. Adults are £8, concessions are £5.

Air Cadets take third place



BACK: Cdt Cpl Aston, Cdt Cpl Young, Cdt Norris, Cdt Cornwall, Cdt Townsend, Cdt Davies. FRONT ROW: Cdt Aston, Cdt Norris, Cdt Maine, Cdt Peckham.

LAST weekend cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) ATC took part in intersquadron athletics to qualify to represent No3 Welsh Wing at Wales and the West Region Inter Squadron Athletics at RAF Cosford.

The female cadets did very well, being placed third overall in the under-15 girls and second in the junior women's.

Cadet Olivia Norris did

extremely well by winning the high jump, 400 metres and 1,500 metres. Hot on her heels, was Cadet Jessica Aston, who won the discus and shot putt, and Cadet Lucy Peckham, who won the long jump for under-15 girls.

Not to be outdone, representing the male cadets, Cadet Jordan Norris won the 200 metres.

All in all, it was a very good result for Kenfig Hill, and four cadets now go forward to RAF Cosford on May 20.

If you are male or female and at least 13 years old, why not join 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC?

We are also looking for adult staff members and Civilian Committee members.

We parade on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7pm to 9.30pm. For more information, contact the squadron on parade nights on 01656 670125.

LINDSAY THOMAS
(Secretary, Civilian Committee)

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mynydd Cynffig Junior School

SCHOOL sponsored event – On Friday, May 4, the school is hoping to run a sponsored event, based on the Olympic Games.

It is currently resourcing a brand new reading scheme and updating the reading library.

This is a huge financial outlay and unfortunately, during these times of recession when budgets are being cut, they are looking for support. They are looking for between £3,000 and £4,000 this year and any contribution will obviously help them to provide the best possible resources for the children.

Pupil achievements – congratulations to Philip Burnell, who has been successful in gaining his cap for west Wales.

This is the highest honour in rugby for someone in his age group. He follows a long line of successful pupils from the school.

The girls have also done well during the holidays. Eryn Mae Franklin and Isabelle Ellwood appeared in the British Formation Team Championships at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

Competing among the top dancers in Britain, Eryn Mae's team came sixth and Isabelle's team came 10th.

Reaching out into the community

THERE is an open house/coffee morning held every Thursday morning from 9.30am to 12pm at the Cornelly Community Church in Greenfield Terrace.

You can be sure of a friendly welcome and although it is run by the church, they will not talk religion to anyone unless asked.

Why not take along an old friend or a family member and at the same time meet new friends over a free cup of coffee and a homemade cake in pleasant surroundings?

For more information, ring Anne on 01656 743864 or Brenda on 01656 749614.

Kenfig Hill RFC

ON Tuesday, April 10, Kenfig Hill RFC were chosen as hosts for Shane Williams' farewell tour.

It was a fantastic day for all who attended, espe-



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by **Richard Sims**

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

cially the younger players, who were so excited at seeing their heroes close up.

While there, Ian Evans, Wales and Ospreys second row star, presented the proud under-7s team with their new jerseys, which were kindly sponsored by Dawn Clemence of Dawn's Burger Van. (See picture, right).

Talbot Community Centre COMPUTER classes – There are now some vacancies on a Wednesday between 10am and 12 noon in the 'computer class for the terrified'.

If you have a laptop or any type of computer and wish to learn how to use it in easy stages, this is the class to join.

You are not pushed, you do not have to take any tests or exams and you go at your pace with one to one tuition.

For more details and other activities at the Talbot call Cheryl on 01656 749754.

SHOUT

KENFIG Hill SHOUT, the voice of the older community, will be holding its next meeting at the Barnyard, Pyle Cross, Pyle on Tuesday, May 1, from 2pm to 3pm.

There will be a talk by trading standards.

For further details of this and information regarding this group, contact Stan Rumble on 01656 741203.

Parish of Pyle & Kenfig

BIBLE study – the next Bible study will be in the church hall coffee shop on Friday, May 4.

Bonsai club – Ian and Julie welcome everyone to



ABOVE:

Dawn Clemence, Ian Evans of the Ospreys and Wales, with the under-7s team.

the Bonsai club on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Church Hall.

Film club – The film club will be meeting today at 2pm in the church hall. Anyone interested in films will be welcomed.

For all details of events and activities in the parish, telephone the Rev Dr Duncan Walker on 01656 740500, or 07766 710373 or Gareth Gardener on 07779 239302.

South Wales Police's work praised by Bridgend's MP

BRIDGEND MP

Madeleine Moon has praised the hard work of South Wales Police officers in bringing down the crime rate across nearly all offences in the past year.

At the same time, they have had to cope with losing 395

officers as a result of budget cuts.

According to statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics, crime in south Wales has dropped by seven per cent in the last year.

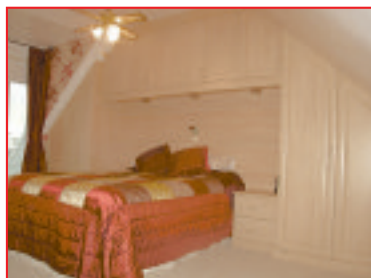
Robbery has dropped by 10 per cent, while there have also been falls in burglary, car

crime and violence against the person.

Mrs Moon said: "These figures are a testament to the hard work and dedication of officers across the Force."

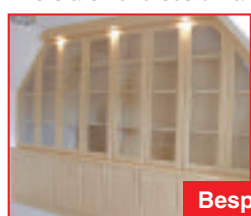
"Against a background of budget cuts and the impact this is having, these results deserve congratulation."

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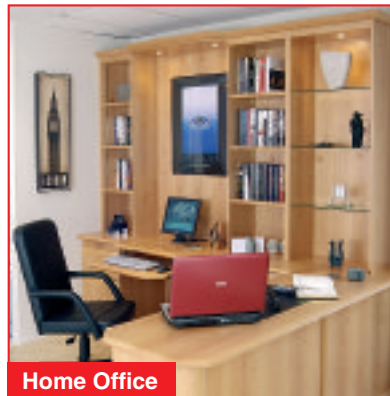


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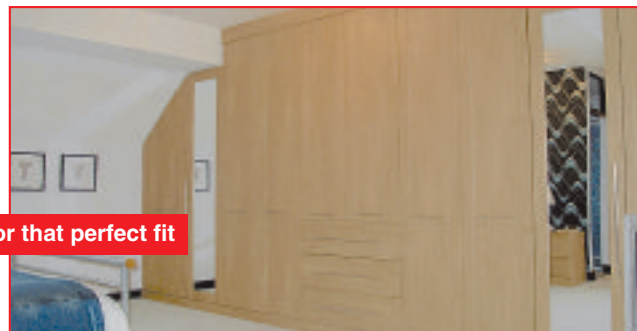


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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Charity concert

ON Friday, May 11, at 7pm there is a charity concert at St Mary's Church, Nolton, Bridgend, with all money raised being donated to the urology department at Princess of Wales hospital.

There will be music to suit all tastes and moods under the musical director Ryan Wood from Maesteg. Ryan is an accomplished pianist and at the age of 13 was accompanist to the Maesteg Children's Choir. He also became accompanist to Cŵr Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male voice choir) in 1996.

He has also accompanied stars such as Soprano and Rebecca Evans and female vocal quartet 'Viva to the Diva', which has raised thousands of pounds for charities.

For the last two years, Ryan has been on the staff of the summer school organised by international opera star Patricia O'Neill.

He achieved one of his ambitions when he became musical director of 'Noteworthy' the mixed voice choir, formed in July 2006 to perform in a concert to raise money for cancer research.

The choir will be performing in this charity concert, which also features three up and com-

ing musicians.

Tickets £7, are available from Tony Mullins on 01656 733542.

Hedgehog Rescue

MEMBERS of South and West Wales Wildlife Trust, Parc Slip, Tondur, will organise an event for children aged up to 13 years in the office adjacent to the visitor centre on May 5.

The Wildlife Watch group have arranged for the Cardiff Hedgehog Rescue to visit the centre.

The event will start at 10am and there is a suggested donation of £2 for each child.

For more information, contact 01656 724100.

Tondur primary

THE school has a special session, 'Tondur Toddlers,' on Thursdays between 9.45am and 11.15am.

The school wants to hear from parents or grand parents willing to help with various gardening projects.

Contact Mrs Evans at the school.

Barn dance
PLEASE note a correction to the article in last week's edition: to celebrate the retirement of Rev David Mortimore, his friends are holding a barn dance at Betws Primary School on Friday, April 27.

Tickets are £1 and everyone is being advised to bring a plate and their own food to share.

Concert triumph

I HAD the pleasure of going to Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society's concert at St Michael's Church, Maesteg, last Friday evening.

I did not really know what to expect, but the musical team of director Susan M Heffey with accompanists Mair Hawley and Richard Norton are to be congratulated for producing a show with an outstanding variety of music from a large number of shows.

With their guests 'Curtain Up' youth theatre under musical director Ruth Whelan, co-director Sarah Thomas, with accompanists Clare Isaac and Richard Norton, the concert was truly enjoyable.

The society had a number of young soloists who were very talented and the first of them came on stage to sing songs from the Jerry Herman 1974 musical *Mack and Mabel* titled 'Look what happened to Mabel,' wonderfully sung by Sian Rees, and 'I won't send roses' by Adam Lewis.

The chorus sang a song from the 2004 Tony award-winning

best new musical *Avenue Q* titled 'For now', followed by Lauren Goldworthy (with her version of 'Send in the Clowns' from Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*), and Richard Lewis singing 'Being alive' from Sondheim's musical *Company*.

On stage came the exuberant youngsters of 'Curtain Up' youth theatre who started with the African-American spiritual 'Wade in the water', the Electric Light Orchestra hit 'Mr Blue Skies' and 'Sing to the World' from the youth musical *Rats*.

Then followed songs from the musical *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* by Kelly Watts, Dylan Morgan and Sophie Evans, then the youngsters of 'Curtain Up' with society choristers David Roberts and Kelly Watts.

Soprano Rhian Hughes, a second year graduate at Cardiff University, sang 'Someone like you'

from the 1997 Broadway musical *Jekyll and Hyde*.

The chorus completed the first half with a song from the Judy Garland/Gene Kelly film *Get Happy*.

After the interval, young soloist Sian Rees gave a magnificent rendition of 'Time heals everything' from *Mack and Mabel*.

Then there was a duet by Caitlin Whelan and tenor Aled Williams, the 2009 winner of the Bridgend young singer of the year competition - 'Happiness' from the musical *Scrooge*.

Adam Lewis returned with 'Song of the sand' from the 1993 Broadway musical *La Cage Aux Folles*, and the chorus performed 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious' from *Mary Poppins*.

The 'Curtain Up' youngsters sang 'Aquarius' and 'Let the sunshine in' from *Hair*; the Mama and Papas hit 'California Dreaming', and Bill Withers' 'Lean on me'.

Then came a brilliant version of the song 'Find your Grail' from the Monty Python musical *Spamalot* by an ensemble consisting of Bethan Thomas, Caitlin Whelan, Nia Scourfield, Rhian Hughes, Katie Bickle and Lauren Goldworthy.

This was followed by a song and dance routine from the same show, and Jim Lediard, with a version of 'How to succeed on

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Broadway' with Sian Rees, Sue Bickle, Katie Bickle, Nia Scourfield, Bethan Thomas and Caitlin Whelan.

Coity Castle
THERE is going to be a choral treat in the castle grounds on June 11 when seven different choirs will be raising money for children's charities: Ty Hafan children's hospice, Noah's Ark that provides support to children who have suffered a family bereavement and Y Bont that provides care and support to preschool children with disabilities.

The concert will start at 5pm and admission by programme is £5.

Park walk
BRIDGEND Carers' Centre in 87 Park Street, Bridgend, (telephone 01656 658479) has organised an outing on April 27, to Glyncoed Ponds where a park ranger will be leading everyone around the re-landscaped lagoons set amongst 9,000 acres of Afan Argoed forest park. Phone the centre to book a place.

In the evening, there is a fundraising event at Ewenny garden centre, with therapists, arts and craft stalls. Tickets £5, include entry fee and buffet.

On May 1, there will be an 'Outreach' group in the Princess of Wales hospital between 9.30am and 12.30pm with another at Trinity Church Hall, Porthcawl between 10am and 1pm

on Thursday, May 3; between 10.30am to 12.30pm there will be a meeting of the Health and Well Being group; parent carers are invited to a coffee and cakes meeting between 1pm-3pm.

On May 3, there is the 'Body Blitz' exercise class between 1.30pm and 2.30pm with a fully qualified instructor Darija.

The centre will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7.

Aberkenfig WI outing
ON April 18, eight members of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute boarded a bus bound for the spring council meeting in Barry Memorial Hall.

There were 68 branches of the WI in Glamorgan and more than 4,000 members.

The morning was spent with the business of debating and organising the affairs of the

Federation. After lunch, there was the presentation of certificates and awards, Eunice Williams, president of Aberkenfig and District, collected a certificate for the institute, celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2011.

The speaker was S4C presenter Lowri Morgan, who spoke of her drive to the wreck of Titanic. Lowri showed a DVD and also spoke of her experience in extreme marathons.

In the Amazon jungle marathon, of the 150 runners, Lowri was in the top ten finishers.

She then entered the 6633 Arctic ultra marathon, a 350-mile endurance race in eight days and was the only one to finish.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig WI is at 2pm on May 9. There will not be a speaker as this is the Resolutions meeting. The competition will be for an item beginning with the letter 'R' and there will be a sales table.

New members and visitors are welcome on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

For further details, contact Secretary Pat Lewis on 01656 721933.

Charity needs new members

OVER the last 30 years, the Porthcawl Committee for Cancer Research UK has raised many thousands of pounds.

However, as with many other organisations, we are finding it increasingly difficult to come up with new ideas and energy for fundraising.

Can you help in the

fight against cancer?

Can you spare some time to join the committee?

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at All Saints Church Hall at 7pm.

Come along and join us. Every penny raised is a step forward in the fight against cancer.

Telephone 01656 784762 for more information.

Diane Jones

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Mr Vince Jordan, 10 Iestyn Drive, Pencoe - fell oak tree. Mrs Kerri Morris, 17 Briary Way, Brackla - crown reduce ash trees by 30 per cent and reshape.

Mr Ken Farman, 22 Rectory Close, Sarn - fell and replant cherry tree in different position. Mr Gareth Thomas, 1 Dan Yr Deri, Broadlands - fence and gate across shared driveway.

Mr D Dummett, 99 West Park Drive, Porthcawl - two storey side extension, first floor rear extension and provide forecourt parking. Aberkenfig Spiritualist Church, Pandy Road, Aberkenfig - replacement Spiritualist Church. Mr P Harpur, land r/o Oak Terrace, Coytrahen - change of use of land to site storage container.

Mr Paul Perry, Bryntirion Hendre Road, Pencoe - single dormer.

Mr David Winn-Davies, Lyndale Wig Fach, Laleston - garage/loft conversion and rear conservatory and solar panels to front.

Mrs Nikki Furness Jones, 7 Bredenbury Gardens, Porthcawl - porch and single storey extension to side.

Mr Peter Treharne, 9 Llys Gwyn, Maesteg - single storey bedroom/shower extension for disabled person.

Mr Matthew Griffiths, 6 Charles Row, Maesteg - two storey extension and refurbishments.

J&S Developments, 3 Bethania Street, Maesteg - convert single residence into two self-contained apartments with rear single storey extension.

Mr Derek Thomas, converted barn, Cefn Cribwr Farm, Farm Road, Cefn Cribwr - erect conservatory to rear and reposition garage (approved under consent P/08/1034/FUL).

Mr Al Nelson, 34 Woodlands Avenue, Pencoe - single storey extension.

Mr Glyn Coleman, 23A Lougher Gardens, Porthcawl - demolish existing extension and construct new, including new bathroom and bedroom. Mrs Anne Pullen, 89A

Westward Place, Bridgend - external access and associated works and internal alterations to provide wetroom.

Mr Rory McLaggan, Wellington Cottage, Merthyr Mawr - reducing, creating and blocking up of windows, convert garage to rooms and set back from front and replace flat roof.

Mr Stephen George, Hope Baptist Church, Derwen Road/Station Hill, Bridgend - remove existing ceiling to first floor school building and replace with plaster board ceiling.

Mr Lewis, 13 Hillside Terrace, Pantyrwll - lean-to conservatory to rear of property. Mr Adrian Dethridge, Bethany Chapel, Oakfield Terrace, Nantymoel - change of use from chapel to two dwelling houses.

Mr John Williams, 10 Westminster Way, Cefn Glas - single storey extension. Mrs Natalie Morgan, 8 Camberwell Avenue, Cefn Glas - two storey side extension and rear single storey extension.

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol
Iro Morgannwg
4-11 Awst 2012

National Eisteddfod
Wales of Glamorgan
4-11 August 2012

100 diwrnod i fynd 100 days to go

3 Awst / August
Cynghedd Agoriadol / Opening Concert
Only Men Aload, Only Boys Aload,
Only Kids Aload y Ffio / Only Vase Kids Aload

4 Awst / August
Beardd Cymru - Karl Jenkins Premiere
Prydeinig / UK premiere
Karl Jenkins, Dennis O'Neill, Rebecca Evans,
Côr yr Eisteddfod / Eisteddfod Choir

6 Awst / August
Deddfod Darydd Iwan /
Deddfod Iwan's Decades
Darydd Iwan, Aisling Heather Jones,
Côr Plant Heol-y-March ar y môr
Edward Maris Jones

7 Awst / August
Gala Genedl / Comedy Gala

9 Awst / August
Noson yng nghwmni Caryl
An evening with Caryl

eisteddfod.org.uk
gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk
0845 4090 800

'TRACTOR BOYS' RAISE FUNDS FOR ED EVANS FOUNDATION *and society*

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are
available from this event.

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ON Sunday, April 22 a combined tractor run raised funds for The Ed Evans Foundation and Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society.

The run, organised by the Tractor Boys of Aberthyn on behalf of the two institutions, was well supported, despite the poor weather conditions, with 51 tractors turning up at Frank Sutton's yard in Ruthin.

Tractors ranged from Hughie Lewis' £150 grey Fergie, dating from 1950 with 26hp on tap, to a brand new £70,000 180hp monster tractor. This made a fantastic spectacle and clearly emphasised the increase in tractor size over the decades.

With the drivers of the vintage and classic tractors preparing themselves and getting well wrapped up in wet weather gear to fend off the horrendous weather conditions, the run got underway at 10.30am with routemaster Jeff Webb in control.

The morning run took in Llanharry, Llanansannor, Penlllyn and Singsingstone. The afternoon saw the convoy of tractors pass through Llandow village, Colwinston and Treos before heading back to Frank Sutton's yard for a very wet 4pm finish.

A total of £1,250 was raised in what proved to be a hugely successful and fun day.

Many thanks to all those who took part, and also to Llandow circuit cafe.



MH

Tour success for Pencoed under-15s

PENCOED under-15s recently crossed the channel to Ireland and entered the Dungarvan RFC tournament.

Pencoed played four games, against Irish teams Munster, Youghall and Dungarvan, and English team Sleaford RFC, from Cornwall, who were also on tour.

Pencoed scored seven tries against hosts Dungarvan in their first game, followed by their second game, against Youghall, where they scored six.

In the next game, they faced Sleaford and beat them 12 tries to nil. In the final game, Pencoed were against the Munster academy, and scored three tries to one, allowing them to bring the cup home.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day of rugby, followed by a thoroughly enjoyable tour.

Then the team travelled to Penarth for their last 15-a-side fixture.

In the first half, there was a hard battle up front, but there was good defending by Pencoed and this allowed for Matthew Ellis to chip over their defence, and after collecting the ball, Morgan Jones produced a good run and dived over the

try line. After half-time, there was more battle up front, but this time Morgan Jefferies broke the line and went over for Pencoed's second try, which was converted by Alex King.

After some more defence, the boys were able to keep the score at 12-0 to ensure the win.

Squad: Jamie Dyer, Dan Maiden, Chris Cooper, Alex King, Rhys Brownell, Morgan Jones, Morgan Jefferies, Johnny Clatworthy, James Merchant, Josh Maunder, Matthew Ellis, Liam Bowen, Jordan Fox, Aled Bargery, Jac Briggs and Scott Ewing.

JM

Club to hold charity golf day

A CHARITY golf day at the Grove Golf Club, next week still has a few spaces for last-minute entries.

The event aims to raise cash for the Porthcawl and Pyle Boxing Club, and is being organised by Mike Davies.

He said: "A fundraising campaign for the boxing club is being run in memory of the late Colin Humphreys by his family.

"Colin was a friend of mine and I know that, as a former Welsh boxing champion, he was keen to see the gym at the club refurbished."

He said that the golf day is on Friday, May 4, with tee times between 9am and 2.30pm. The cost for a team of four is £150, with a buffet included.

For more information, contact Mike Davies on 01656 786793.

AT the recent Mothers' Union meeting in the church hall, the guest speaker was Ken Rise, who gave an interesting talk on the Dunraven family and the castle, with photographs and first-hand information enjoyed by all.

DON'T forget the sponsored walk in aid of Children in Distress which will be taking place on Monday, May 7, at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major. For information and sponsor forms, contact Sheila at the vicarage, St Brides Major (01656 880108).

THE green waste is now being collected on alternate weeks from the black bag refuse. Green waste bags can be obtained from Llantwit and Cowbridge libraries at £1 each.

DOGS will be banned from Southerndown Beach from May 1 to September 30, but dogs

COMMUNITY NEWS ST BRIDES MAJOR Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

are welcomed on some beaches in the Vale.

For more information and a fact sheet, contact visible services on 02920 673000.

Failure to clean up after your dog is an offence and you could be prosecuted. Bags can be placed in any bin, making sure they are securely tied.

A PRIZE bingo evening will take place at the church hall, St Brides Major, on Friday, April 27 at 6.30pm.

Admission is £1 and refreshments will be available.

It is in aid of the Three Villages Diamond Jubilee Carnival on Saturday, June 16.

A VERY pleasant morning was spent on April 17 in All Saints, Southerndown, when the 'Knit and Natter' group met to give a donation to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

An interesting talk was given, telling how these wonderful dogs offer a life-changing level of independence, confidence and companionship to deaf people, as they are trained to alert recipients to important everyday sounds and danger signals.

Hearing Dogs began in 1979, and in February 1982 (at Crufts dog show) the scheme was launched

nationally. More information can be obtained from Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, The Grange, Wycombe Road, Saunderton, Princess Risborough, Buckinghamshire, HP27 9NS.

THE local produce market took place with a tea and chat on Saturday, at the church hall, St Brides Major. The next market will be on May 10.

The tea and chat takes

place every Saturday (10am-12 noon). All are welcome. The library is also open on this day.

OBITUARY

IT is sad to report the death of Mrs Betty Loveluck, late of Lony-Eglwys, St Brides Major. Mrs Loveluck, aged 92, had been a much-loved teacher in St Brides Major C/W Primary School.

OGMORE Retired Residents Association met after the Easter recess in All Saints, Southerndown, when the subject for the afternoon was 'members' memories of employment before retirement' - an interesting afternoon with remarkable memoirs.

Event aims to boost charity

NATIONAL Cystic Fibrosis week runs from April 29 to May 4, and to herald its arrival an event is being held in Llantwit Major this Saturday, April 28,

A 'swap shop' charity fundraising event takes place at the Llantion Hall (also known as the Pensioners' Centre) starting at 12 noon.

Organiser Sarah Morton said: "It's an opportunity to clear out any items you no longer want or need and exchange them for something else!"

"Gather the pieces you

no longer love or use and join us for an eco-fabulous, fun and friendly, thrifty afternoon of clothes and general household swapping to raise money for cystic fibrosis."

The rules are simple: Pay £3 on arrival and bring at least one item, but no more than 10. Participants receive a token for each item, and can get something with their own tokens.

All proceeds will go to Cystic Fibrosis. For more information, contact Sarah Morton on 07967 606725, or e-mail: cfswapshop@yahoo.co.uk

Pencoed Fire Service save stranded cat

CONTRARY to popular belief, the fire service *do* perform pet rescues – as a two-year-old male longhaired cat recently found out when the RSPCA attended its rescue from a roof of a dormer bungalow in Pencoed.

He had apparently been stuck on the roof for at least two days and possibly more according to the caller, who was looking after the house for her mother-in-law, who was away at the time.

The cat was spotted on the roof and looked lethargic and terrified of moving. It was clearly in need of rescue.

The attending RSPCA inspector attempted to reach the cat using her ladder but it was just out of reach. She then called the local South Wales Fire and Rescue Service who were able to rescue the cat within 40 minutes.

He appeared thin but otherwise unharmed.

As luck would have it, one of the firemen lived on the street



ABOVE: Fireman scale the roof to get to the stranded cat.

behind the rescue spot as they had put up missing posters.

The fireman was then able to call the owner, who travelled home immediately from Cardiff to collect the moggie.

Owner and cat, both of Heol Bryncwytyn, were then reunited, with both parties extremely happy to be home together.

RSPCA inspector Julie Fadden said: "Apparently, the cat had never done anything like this before and generally just lounges on cushions all day long! He has now definitely used up at least one of his lives!"

"I'd really like to say a big thanks to the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and commend them on their quick and professional response."

Surfer tangled in kite rescued by lifeboats

PORHCRAWL RNLI lifeboat took part in a dramatic rescue with a difference on Sunday, after a kite surfer was dragged out to sea at Newton when kite wires became tangled around his leg.

Spokesman Ian Stroud explained: "The RNLI crew, who had been on exercise in the area earlier, were paged by Swansea Coastguard to respond immediately back to Newton.

"The male surfer had his leg tangled in the kite wires and, with strong winds, found that he could not release himself. The power of the wind in the kite meant that he was being dragged towards the rocks at Newton Point.

"As soon as the lifeboat arrived on scene, the surfer was handed a knife in order to cut himself free.

"Once safely on board Porthcawl Atlantic 85 lifeboat, the casualty told crew how dangerous the situation had been for him.

"The speed at which he had been dragged through the water had caused him to be pulled

underwater feet first several times by the kite."

Helmsman on the lifeboat, Simon Emms, said: "It was fortunate that we were on scene so quickly. The casualty had no control of his situation and was being dragged into deep water and only yards away from the notorious rocks at Newton Point.

"It was difficult to come alongside the casualty and get the knife to him as he had no control of his speed or position. "As soon as he had released the kite, we were able to pull him onboard and we returned him to Newton Beach where he was met by Porthcawl Coastguard and a paramedic."

RNLI Sea Safety Officer, Ross Martin, added: "Part of the safety kit for all kite surfers is to carry a knife at all times.

"Under the power of the wind, the kite wires can act like a cheese wire and cause serious injury.

"Although experienced, the casualty said he had forgotten his knife and this has proved that all safety equipment should be checked before launch every time."

Man is sought by police



DARREN REES. POLICE in Bridgend are appealing to the public for information on the whereabouts of 21-year-old Darren Rees, who was released from prison on licence, but has since breached licence conditions and is now required to return.

He is believed to be frequenting the Bridgend or Rhondda area and is described as 5 feet 7 ins tall, of medium build, with blue eyes and short brown hair.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police in Bridgend on 101, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

TRACING THE TRADITION OF A BRITISH FESTIVAL

MAY DAY GHOSTLY TALES...

MAY is named after Maia, the Greek Goddess – and the ancient tradition of May Day dates back to Pagan rituals during the season of spring.

The celebration included young men and women dancing on the village green where a decorated, felled tree (usually birch) would be the centre of the festival. Branches were cut off the tree, and the trunk decorated with coloured ribbons tied from the top.

May Day was originally a communist proposal celebrated around Europe on International Workers' Day, as the first day in May is the Feast of St Philip and St James, the patron saints of workers.

But May Day was not acknowledged as a bank holiday until the British Labour Party introduced it in 1978.

May Day was called Beltane, which was an ancient Celtic festival where bonfires were lit to commemorate summer the following month. It marks the half-way date in the year from

November 1, known as cross-quarter days.

Wheels of fire were also rolled down the hillside, and livestock would be guided through the flames as a sign of purification, a custom which is now resigned to history books. Another belief involved Druids worshipping trees as a religious ritual.

During the middle ages, villagers would awake at dawn on the first day in May to collect blossoming flowers and branches to decorate the maypole. A piper would then play tunes for them to dance around it, wearing colourful clothing and belts. Today the costumes are more elaborate with white clothing and a red sash.

An additional tradition was to crown the fairest maiden as 'Queen of the May', who would sit on a flower-decked chair and be lifted into the air with a doll beside her to represent spring.

Her suitor would be chosen on May 2 as the 'May King'. The two

then led the festivities and were often nicknamed 'Robin Hood and Maid Marian'.

During the Victorian era, May Day was known as 'rustic delight', and more customs were included into the celebrations.

Houses would be decorated with flowers and greenery in the belief that vegetation spirits would bring good fortune. May wine was also drunk on this day.

Another superstition saw girls washing their faces in the early morning dew in the belief that it would make them beautiful.

The legend of playing tricks on villagers became a custom for the first day of May during Victorian times too. 'Beating the bounds' involved landowners walking around the boundaries of their prop-

erty to confirm their rights. It became a day for repairing fences and boundary walls to keep the people at bay for the year ahead.

Superstitious tales maintain that life is doomed if anyone dares to venture on the water on the first day of May. Alternatively, if the hearth fire goes out on the morning of May Day, it is considered to bring misfortune.

Marriage was also ill-fated if the ceremony took place during the month of May. Thankfully, these tales of folklore are now buried in the past.

If hares were found close to your home, they were deemed as witches in disguise, and luck would never cross your path for the year ahead, especially if these animals were killed.

Ghostly figures of a

lady dressed in a long flowing gown and sporting long scraggly hair have often been associated with May Day. She is allegedly chased by riders on white horses thundering through villages to capture her.

But who could this maiden be, and why would she have to flee from a supposed cavalry?

Welsh folklore tales maintain that fairies dance around the fairy ring at dusk on May's Eve, and any witnesses to this silent action are believed to obtain good luck for the year ahead.

This tale is another slant from legends of the *Mabinogion*, which means 'tales of youth' in the Welsh language, and have been passed down through time.

But fact or fiction? Only you can decide...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

Athletic under-11s face tourists from Dursley

BRIDGEND Athletic under-11s played touring side Dursley this week at Newbridge Fields.

The game was played in quarters to allow both sides to rotate players under English rules.

The Ath got the game under way and put immediate pressure on the visitors. Some good hands saw Thomas Anthony score the opening try of the game. Connor Fabian converted to make it 7-0.

The Ath were quick to extend their lead with Josh Tidy going over in the corner to score a well-taken try. Connor Fabian converted.

The final try of the quarter went to Connor Fabian after he weaved his way through the defence to score. He also converted to make it 21-0.

Dursley kicked off the second quarter and held their own during the early exchanges until a clearance from their own line was charged down by Sam Veasey who collected the ball to score for the Ath, making it 26-0.

Just before the break Jack Jenkins crashed over from short range to score and extend the Ath lead to 31-0.

They started the third quarter and carried on from where they left off. Sion Vigus dived over to score after some good passing set him free. Connor Fabian converted to make it 38-0.

Next to score was Connor Fabian after stealing the ball well and finding space to score. He converted once again to make it 45-0.

Some great ripping from Louis King saw

him gain possession and crash over to score another for the Ath. Connor converted to make it 52-0.

The final try of the quarter was scored by Connor Fabian after the ball was popped up well to him. He converted to extend the Ath lead to 59-0.

The final quarter saw Kasari Mehta score early on after some good hands from the Ath. Connor Fabian converted, making it 66-0.

The Ath continued to press and Sam Owen jinked free to score in the corner making it 71-0. Some good handling from the Ath set Megan Webb free to score, making it 76-0.

The final try of the match went to Sam Owen after more great handling allowed him the space to score, making the final score

Bridgend Ath 81, Dursley 0.

A special mention goes to Lance Burn who broke his wrist in the opening minutes of the game, and we wish him well for a full and speedy recovery.

TEAM: Thomas Anthony (captain), Jack Obbard (vice captain), Gwilym John, Ffion Revell, Teo Fillis, Kasari Mehta, Sion Vigus, Sam Veasey, Louis King, Jamie Marshall, Daffydd Beech, Thomas Reed, Conner Fabian, Taine Waite, Brandy Fooks, William Goodhall, Megan Webb, Charles Creffield, Josh Tidy, Lance Burn, Sam Owen, Jack Mustoe, Jack Jenkins, James Hemoille.

BR

TOM RIDES A GOOD FINISH

KENFIC HILL rider Tom Flint was seen at his best when winning on his father John Flint's *Lastchanceforlisa* at Fontwell.

Strongly challenged in the closing stages of the race by *Mollyow*, Flint managed to get a little bit extra out of the six-year-old bay mare to win by a head.

Lastchanceforlisa was backed from 16-1 to 10-1. Two horses trained in the Vale fought out the finish of the handicapped hurdle at Ffos Las. *MickMacMagoole*, trained by Evan Williams and ridden by

Barry Browne, won by a head from *Speed Steed* trained by Tim Vaughan and ridden by Richard Johnson. *Speed Steed*, was top of the handicap and carried 11st 12lb, compared to *MickMacMagoole*'s 11st 6lb.

Vaughan and Johnson had some consolation when landing the National Hunt Flat race with *Explained*.

At Stratford, Paul Rich, a former master of the Penttyrch Hunt, won the opener with *Saigland* and *Mr Moss*, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, was a winner for Evan Williams. **Brian Lee**

REMEMBERING THE PORTHCAWL MARITIME DISASTER WHEN 47 DIED

MANY people who now live in Porthcawl will be unaware of that terrible night 65 years ago when, on April 23, 1947, during a severe storm and heavy seas, the SS Santamper went aground on Sker Rock.

The Mumbles Lifeboat, 'Edward Prince of Wales' put to sea, but the exact position of the stricken craft was somewhat vague, so the lifeboat returned to station.

However, in the traditions of the service, it headed out once more into the night and was not seen again until it was found upturned on Sker Rock.

All eight members of the crew lost their lives.

The crew of the Santamper, numbering 39, also died less than 200 yards from the shore. The only survivor from the disaster was the ship's cat, found next day and later given to a local farmer.

One crew member missed the sailing, staying behind to have a night out with his wife.

The lifeboat, in the tradition of the service, was burned where found on the rock, and a plaque now marks the spot.

Twelve members of the Santamper's crew are buried in Nottage Cemetery.

Salvage of the Santamper was difficult and a Sherman tank was used to ferry the heavier items up the beach.

JOHN DAVID

The only survivor was the ship's cat



Time Travelling Musicians wow the Bryntirion crowd

A SELL-OUT show by Morgan & West, Time Travelling Magicians, at Harri's Cafe Bar @ The Dance Centre, Bryntirion, on Friday April 20 was a resounding success.

The audience ranged in age from eight months to 89 years, and they loved the magic and humour displayed.

The children were enraptured and many of the adults had aching sides after laughing so much! The larger of the duo was educated in Porthcawl and several of the audience had taught



Morgan & West returned to one of their home towns to raise money for Cancer Research Wales.

him. One member of the audience was a retired professional magician and he gave the act a very distinct "thumbs-up".

This was the first time that the act has been per-

formed in Wales, after sell-out shows in Edinburgh and Adelaide, Australia.

Over £420 was raised for Cancer Research Wales by the event. This was made possible by the generosity of Dave and Cath Harrison, who donated the use of their premises, and Tony Davies, the owner of OrangeWest Scaffolding, who provided the stage.

The magic duo, who live in Oxford, want to thank everyone for making the night a great success and look forward to their next appearance 'back home' (for one of them).

Their website is: www.morganandwest.co.uk.

Quiz League posers

THIS week's Quiz League conundrums are:

1) What name is given to the force that resists the motion of one surface relative to another with which it is in contact?

2) Who played the part of the pianist David Helfgott in an Oscar winning film in 1996?

3) Which Everton

player scored twice in the final six minutes of his debut at the 2006 Football World Cup?

4) What type of snake is a "Double Back"?

A Rudge (for Quiz League).
4 - Rattlesnake.
3 - Tim Cahill.
(Shine).
2 - Geoffrey Rush.
1 - Fritton.
ANSWERS

Charity renews links with its Czech mates

AS a result of a successful visit to south Wales in 2011 by members of Czech rural charities, Margaret Minhinnick, director of the Porthcawl-based charity, 'Sustainable Wales', will make a reciprocal visit to the Czech Republic later this month.

She will be accompanied by Martin Fitton, former Director of the Brecon Beacons National Park, and Steve Garret, local food advocate and the founding Director of the Riverside Farmers Market, Cardiff.

A total of 24 Czechs visited Wales and among the highlights was their stay in local bed and breakfasts in Porthcawl and their visits to local bars and restaurants!

The trip also included sharing ideas and experience from practical environmental projects, such as 'Creation' in Cwm Garw, 'Coed Hills' at St Hilary, Sustainable Wales and in Porthcawl.

Margaret Minhinnick commented: "These international links are important because visitors discover good practice from other parts of the world."

"In south Wales, the Czechs learned about time-banking, community supported agriculture and community allotments, farmers' markets and recycling and reuse projects."

"The Welsh voluntary movement is wide ranging, but (hopefully) we will benefit from unique Czech experience in rural co-operation and crafts."

The Welsh party will fly to Prague, then stay at a resort in the Bohemian-Moravian highlands.



LOCAL RUNNER BEATS THE PAIN BARRIER!

LLANBLETHIAN journalist Simon Farrington completed the London Marathon, alongside 37,000 fellow competitors, and in the process raised more than £3,250 for Ty Hafan children's hospice at Sully.

The 55-year-old completed the 26 mile 385 yard-course in four hours 35 minutes, and said it was a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

"The crowds were unbelievable, probably six to 10 deep in Greenwich, around the Cutty Sark, through Canary Wharf and up the Mall. In fact, there wasn't one part of the course where people were not lining the route and they give you a terrific lift.

"I was still going strong across London Bridge – the halfway point – in one hour 49 minutes, and went through 20 miles in just over three hours, but my legs had successfully ballooned for strike action with around seven miles to go, and I struggled to drag one foot in front of the other down the Embankment and to the finish.

"Fortunately, family and friends were there to cheer me on and crossing the line was very emotional.

"I would like to say a huge thank you for all the donations and support and remind people that the Justgiving account is still open and can be accessed at www.justgiving.com/Simon-Farrington."



Simon Farrington with his London Marathon medal.

Police probe store break-in

ON Sunday (April 15) a break-in occurred overnight at the Barry branch of Lidl on Cennin Pedr, when the weekend's takings were stolen from a safe.

The store had to be closed for a time on Monday while an investigation ensued, but normal service was resumed by Tuesday.

A South Wales Police spokesperson said: "Police attended the Lidl store in Barry at approx 6am on Monday, April 16, following reports of a burglary overnight at the premises. An investigation is ongoing.

"Anyone who noticed

anything suspicious in the area, or who may have further information, is asked to contact Penarth CID on 101."

A spokesperson for Lidl reported: "Unfortunately, we did have to close the Barry store for a short period, due to a break-in. The store opened later the same day and is now trading as usual."

Vale Explorers tackle the Three Peaks Challenge



The group at the top of the Blorenge.

RECENTLY, a group of Vale Explorers Scouts took part in the Abergavenny Three Peaks Challenge, a 35km walk up and down the Blorenge, Sugar Loaf and Skirrid Fawr mountains, which surround the picturesque town of Abergavenny.

This means that walk-

ers have a climb of more than 1,800m, some of which is very steep.

The walk starts out from the centre of Abergavenny and after 2km, the ascent of the Blorenge starts with the path going under the Brecon to Newport canal.

The path continues up through the woods before the steep climb up the face of the mountain reveals itself. This is a steep climb of about 1km straight up the front of

the mountain.

There is then the long walk across the Usk valley before the very different climb up the Sugar Loaf Mountain. This is the tallest of the hills and there are a number of false summits that lull you in thinking you are nearly there, only to dash your joy by revealing another climb.

The walk continues down into the next valley for a short well-earned drink at the Crown Inn before the long walk to the northerly end of the Skirrid Fawr.

The top of this mountain is the steepest section, of the day, but it is only a 20-minute climb to the final summit.

All that is left is the 4km walk back into Abergavenny for a well-earned cup of tea, with cake supplied by the organisers, the Cardiff Outdoor Group.

All of the Explorers completed the walk, although there were a number of blisters shared out between the group!

Local law firms come together in merger

THE historic Bear Hotel was the venue when clients and staff of Glamorgan Law gathered to celebrate the official opening of the firm's new Cowbridge offices.

Glamorgan Law built its reputation in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan and in 2010 merged with Beech & Co of Cowbridge.

This month saw a further merger with the established Cowbridge firm of Larby Williams, and Glamorgan Law now dominates the Vale legal scene from its offices at The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge.

The evening's keynote address was delivered by Vale MP Alun Cairns. Welcomed by Peter Davies, senior partner of Glamorgan Law, Mr Cairns said: "The merger of Glamorgan Law and Larby Williams repre-

sents a significant investment in Cowbridge and the Vale.

"Complex legal matters now require a high degree of expertise and gone are the days when an individual lawyer can handle a large number of different areas of law.

"The presence of Glamorgan Law in Cowbridge enables the people of the Vale to benefit from top quality legal expertise on their doorstep and represents a very welcome boost to the community".

In response, Adrian Larby, formerly the senior partner of Larby Williams, assured clients of Larby Williams that he and Pamela Haines both remain with Glamorgan Law.

He pointed out that the merger made a greater range of expertise available to Vale clients, adding spe-

cialisms such as business law and commercial litigation to traditional areas of strengths such as property and agricultural law, family law, trusts, wills, tax and probate.

He said: "This is great news for us, for the clients of Larby Williams and Glamorgan Law, indeed for everyone needing legal services in the Vale".

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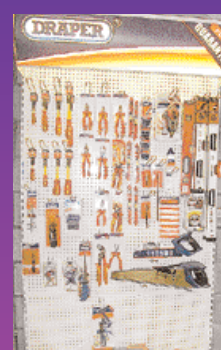
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Cyril and Cynthia's Diamond 60 years

RIGHT: Cyril and Cynthia Williams, with the first bouquet to arrive.
A VALE couple are celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary today – and for the last 51 years, they have lived in the same house!

Cyril and Cynthia Williams live in Peterston-super-Ely, and all this week they have been welcoming visitors, well-wishers and family.

There has been no shortage of callers, as the couple brought up six children in their modest home in the village, and also have 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Cynthia told The GEM: "We met in 1950. I was walking home with a friend when we stopped briefly to talk to some boys on their bikes.

"When I got home, Cyril was waiting there for me and asked me out."

Cyril lived in Llantrisant and Cynthia near Beddau, and they had a two-year courtship.

However, that period coincided with Cyril doing his National Service, so they saw each other only on the occasional weekend.

They married as soon as Cyril finished his National Service, and he returned to his job with

the Electricity Board.

The young couple lived with Cynthia's mother for a few years, and then they found a rather unusual home.

Cynthia explained: "It was the railway cottage and it was where the Bosch factory is now.

"It was completely without gas, water and electricity, and even the water was delivered to us daily on the train.

"We had 10 gallons a day, delivered in two milk churns."

Cyril and Cynthia were rehoused when the Peterston area was flooded in 1960. They were not flooded out, as the house was on raised ground, but the outside toilet was washed away!

Cyril said: "We had a visit from Cardiff Rural District Council and the officers couldn't believe that our house had no services."

The council said they qualified for a house, and it was not long before the young couple – and their three children – moved into their new home in Peterston-super-Ely.

They are still there 51 years later, and brought up three more children. There was, however, a gap between the first four and the last two.

The first four were boys and, after thinking

that a girl would never arrive, they struck lucky with number five!

All six children went to primary school in the village. When it came to secondary school, the first four all went to Barry Boys.

However, by the time the next two were 11, the new school at Radyr had opened.

Cyril seemed settled with the Electricity Board, until he had an accident while helping a friend cut branches off a tree. Injuries suffered in a fall meant he had to give up his job.

However, Cyril has a restless nature and took a hobby – woodworking – and became a real craftsman.

Over the years, he has made numerous items that were sold to raise cash for local charities, including Macmillan nurses and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Cynthia said: "Cyril has made wishing wells, bird boxes, see-saws, and trolleys.

"He once gave a see-saw to Llandough Hospital to be sold to raise funds, but they kept it because they found it was therapeutic for the elderly patients!"

He was also passionate about pigeon racing, and still has the prize-



winning certificates from some of his star performers.

There will be no special celebration in the Williams household this week. Cyril and Cynthia

are content to welcome friends and family, and reflect on 60 happy years of marriage.

PHILIP IRWIN

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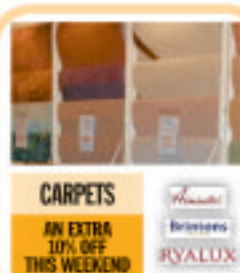
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Out and About with The GEM

Festival fun for fostered children!

BEYOND the Border, Wales' international storytelling festival, has announced that its partnership with Renault Retail Group Cardiff Ltd has been awarded an investment from Arts and Business Cymru, to allow them to offer free festival tickets to children and young people living in foster care in the Vale, to attend with their foster families.

The festival, which is funded by the Welsh Government and Arts Council Wales, as well as the Vale Council, takes place at St Donats Castle, near Llantwit Major from June 29-July 1.

Performers will come from all over the world this year, including a storytelling circus from Switzerland, true life tales of the sinking of the Titanic from America, and stories of strong women in the history and legends of Wales, performed in Welsh and English, to name just a few.

With lots of music and plenty of other activities, from shadow puppet making to street

theatre performed on a stage towed by a bicycle, the festival also has an environmental theme, with both tales and workshops looking at sustainability in a fun and friendly way.

This environmental element is central to the partnership with Renault, who will be sponsoring the Renault ZE Big Top - the festival's largest performance space - to promote their electric vehicles to festival attendees.

"This sponsorship allows us to make a local connection to our company's belief that 'the automobile should adapt itself to the planet' explained Darren Bowen, of the Renault Retail Group, Cardiff.

Under the current scheme, about 20 chosen children, their foster carers and siblings will benefit from the project, but festival organisers are hoping that will increase.

Businesses interested in finding out more can contact the festival office on 020291 660 501 or email info@beyondthe-border.com.

Rhoose talk
THE Rhoose and District History Society will hear a talk by Aldon Grisdale on 'Myths and Legends of Porthkerry' on Friday, April 27, at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets at the door £1 per adult; 50p per child (under 16 years).

Choral evening
A CHORAL evening will be held at St Donat's Castle on April 27, at 7.30pm, featuring Dowlais Male Voice Choir, Gower College Swansea Ensemble, Daisy Evans (soprano) and Sian Evans (BBC Radio), compere.

For ticket information contact 01446 772333 or Jen on 01656 890235.

Eisteddfod fundraiser

THERE will be a table top sale and coffee morning on Saturday, April 28, in Tabernacle Vestry, King's Square, Barry.

A table is £10. Sellers should arrive at 9am. Telephone 01446 733784 to book.

Table top sale

A TABLE top sale and coffee morning will be held on April 28, at 10am in Tabernacle Vestry, Kings Square, Barry.

A table costs £10, and sellers should arrive at 9am. Proceeds will go towards the National Eisteddfod in the Vale

later this year.

Saturday story time

COWBRIDGE Library is running a free storytime on April 28, from 11am-11.30am, for children aged five-nine years old.

For more information, contact the library on 01446 773041.

Charity run

THE Blacksmiths Arms, Llanmaes, is holding its annual five-mile charity fun run on April 28, starting at 3pm.

There will be a barbecue and live music from The Unknowns after the run, with all money going to the Bridgend-based charity 'Healing the Wounds' which supports armed forces veterans and emergency services personnel suffering from PTSD.

Musical splendour

THE Bridgend County Civic Charity Appeals Standing Committee and the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough are organising a charity evening of 'musical splendour' next month.

Appearing are Robyn Lyn, tenor; Llio Evans, soprano; accompanist Sharon Richards; Atlantic College International Choir under musical director Chris Davies; and Ogmore Valley Male Choir under musical director Eira Paskin.

It will be hosted by D Hugh Thomas at the Sony Theatre, Bridgend

College, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend, on Saturday, April 28, at 7.30pm.

Tickets £10. The event is supporting the following: Glaze Prostate Charity Wales, including development of robotic prostate surgery at the Princess of Wales hospital, Bridgend; Stroke Association; Bridgend County Stroke Group; Bridgend County Riding for the Disabled; Bridgend College, Pencoe Campus.

Information from M Major (01656 664105) or D John (01656 861594), Civic Offices (01656 643132) and at Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road.

Stamp fair

BARRY Philatelic Society holds its spring fair on Saturday, April 28, at 10am-4.30pm, at the Highlight Community Centre, at the rear of Tesco, Port Road, Barry.

National dealers will be present. Admission is 50p. Refreshments available.

The next fair is on Saturday, November 17. For more information telephone 01446 741026.

Speak with local officer

NEWTON PCSO Holly Prosser will be holding a coffee morning on April 30 from 10am-11am at Newton Institute, Newton Nottage Road, Porthcawl.

This is a chance to speak with your local officer about issues that concern you in your area.

Society's walk

THIS year's Llancarfan Society

polkas, waltzes and more! Adult tickets are £4, children £2, family £10. Bar and raffle tickets from Eleanor 01446 751950.

Latest Eisteddfod fundraising events

TWO events are being held in Llantwit Major to raise funds for the National Eisteddfod.

This Saturday, April 28 at 7pm, there will be a 'Twmpath' with 'Thingumijigs' in the Llantwit Hall.

Put on your dancing shoes and join caller Ceri Platts and Thingumijigs ceilidh band for an evening of Welsh jigs, reels,

May Day walk is a two-mile stroll to the most southerly point in Wales.

Nature has softened and reclaimed this former landscape of limestone quarries, protected from the sea by cliffs with fine views across the Severn.

Wild life should abound. Children and well behaved dogs are welcome. There is a short cut back if the weather is unfortunate. Meet at the rail car park, serving Rhoose Airport, on May 7, at 10.30am for an 11am start.

Floral society

BARRY Floral Society meets on Tuesday, May 1, when the demonstrator will be Linda Garratt of Abergavenny and the title of her demonstration is 'All that Glisters'.

Meetings are held at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, commencing at 2.15pm. New members are always welcome.

Valeways walks

ON Tuesday, May 1, 'The Garlic Trail to St Lythans' at 1.30pm, starting at the Wenvoe Arms car park.

Flower arrangers meeting

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club meet at 7.30pm, on Wednesday, May 2, in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

Sharon Dower will give a demonstration entitled 'Fruits of the Florist'. A warm welcome awaits you.

Sleepwalk needs more wardens!

POSSIBLY due to a certain Mr John Barrowman coming along to the Millennium Stadium on Friday, May 4 at midnight to spur on the ladies and girls, the Ty Hafan 'Tiaras and Pyjamas Sleep Walk' has seen a significant increase in registrations this year.

This means that the event organisers could do with some extra male marshals to volunteer their services.

Ty Hafan's Craig Ananin commented: "Registrations have been coming in well, especially since we announced that John is on board. But we would also welcome husbands, boyfriends and

any male family members or friends if they could spare a few hours to help on the night."

Anyone interested can register as a marshal on the dedicated 'Midnight Sleep Walk' website, www.midnightsleepwalk.co.uk, or by emailing the events team at: events@tyhafan.org, or calling them on 029 20672065.

Mr Ananin added: "I would also suggest that if there are any ladies who have been thinking of taking part in the event they will need to register before April 30 as we won't be able to take any registrations on the evening."

"It's only £10 to register, but if you take along four friends, the five of you will get a discount of £20 on your total group registration fee."

PARK WALK

CANCER Research Wales charity is organising walks on May 5 and 6 (Saturday and Sunday).

There is free entry to the park, but a small fee will be deducted from each donation.

Steve George took early retirement from Margam Country Park after 25 years service as a ranger and seven years as the visitor services manager.

He will be the walk leader and will tell walkers all about the history of the Orangery, Chapter House, castle, Iron Age hillfort, the Vanished House and also the trees in the Orangery.

Aboretum. The three species of

deer (Fallow, Red and rare Pere David, Margam Park's conservation success story, will also be included).

The walk will be suitable for young families, although the hill or steps will need to be climbed from the Orangery gardens to the castle. Much of the walk is on the flat.

The distance will be approximately one-and-a-half miles each way, with many stops for explanation along the way.

The walk will end at the café in the castle yard, after seeing the deer herd.

The charity walks will go ahead regardless of the weather. Suitable clothing and shoes advisable although not essential.

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Shampan winners

THE winners of our recent competition with Shampan for a meal for two were: Collette Lee-Allen, Llantwit Major; Viv Edwards, Barry; Paula Jones, Cowbridge; and Alan Blayney, Bridgend.

Congratulations to you all and keep reading for more great GEM competitions.



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Volunteering can help you...

THE Vale Volunteering Bureau provides people with the chance to try their hand at different jobs with the view of starting a new career. **Matthew Spill** is one such youngster who experienced the process...

"While I was growing up I developed an interest in drama and media, which led me to do a BA Honours qualification in Theatre and Media.

"Not long after I left university in 2009, I heard about a new radio station, Bro Radio, coming to the Vale, and the Vale Volunteer Bureau were involved in recruit-

ing volunteers.

"I was invited to a recruitment evening. I went along and spoke to the station manager, who offered me training sessions for news reading.

"I jumped at the chance as I thought this was a great opportunity for me to start a career in media. "This gave me the confidence and skills I needed to go live on air and read the news.

"After a while, I progressed to head of news, and my role involves researching local and sometimes national stories, as well as editing and packaging audio. My role is also to present the

weather forecast and be as accurate as possible!

"Some highlights have included attending the live count of the last General Election, and to announce breaking news of the National Eisteddfod coming to the Vale.

"From time to time I have been offered the chance to host my own show, so I am getting experience in that area as well."

For further information on volunteering contact the Vale Volunteer Bureau on 01446 421782, or email: info@vvb.org.uk. Their website is www.vvb.org.uk.

Vale 'twinners' celebrate a very satisfactory year

THE AGM of The Vale of Glamorgan Twinning Association celebrates a very satisfactory year.

Members are now accustomed to flying the flag for the Vale of Glamorgan at events in our twin-towns in Normandy, Belgium and Germany.

Fraternal visits by members to events in Fecamp, Mouscron and Rheinfelden, hosted by their voluntary associations, are developing strong links with ordinary citizens in each of the towns.

Rodney Care, chairman of the Twinning Association, reports: "We always encourage more contact with people of the Vale from our twin towns and we are able to offer a contribution towards the costs of anyone hosting visitors from our twin towns."

Association events of the year included meeting members of the newly-formed voluntary twinning group in Mouscron, visiting the summer arts festival in Fecamp and the street festival in Rheinfelden, hosting the Fecamp Fishermen's choir visit to Barry Waterfront



Festival, and entertaining groups from all the towns to our marquee at Cowbridge Food Festival.

The highlight of the year was the Fete de Noel in Fecamp. Each of the twinning associations has a stall at this event selling typical local products to raise funds for their activities.

The Vale of Glamorgan stall has established a reputation for providing Welsh cheeses, Welsh beers, and freshly-made Welsh cakes. The climax of the fair comes on Sunday evening when the stalls are cleared away, the tables laid down the centre of the hall, and all share a meal together.

After supper, each town has the opportunity to perform a "party-piece" to entertain the gathering.

In the coming year, the association has arranged

ing a consignment of 'Perl Las' Welsh blue cheese for the specialist cheese shop in Fecamp, and we will be selling Welsh whisky at the Street Festival in Rheinfelden.

We will welcome visitors from twin-town associations to the National Eisteddfod at Llandow, and to Cowbridge for the Food and Drink Festival TRS

Trekking the northern Vale countryside...

WITH a forecast of frequent showers, 12 Vale Ramblers left Colwinston to walk nine miles on some of the lesser known paths of the Vale.

Crossing the A48, they entered the northern Vale and across the fields towards Llangan, noticing the old lead mine chimney, now seeming out-of-place in the rural landscape.

Reaching the church, they picked up the path again northwards to St Mary Hill.

Walking along the road for a while they reached the isolated church of St Mary, Penymynydd, and the footpath south, then continued on to Treoes.

Now on lower land they were helped

through a bog by four very friendly ponies. Soon they were back at the A48 and with warm sun at last, the coats came off for the return to Colwinston.

The Sycamore Tree provided a welcome finish to the journey, and the group thanked them for the use of their car park.

The next walk is on Wednesday evening with a local area, four miles (G1) walk. Meet at parking adjacent to Lamb and Flag Pub, Wick for a 7pm start.

On Sunday, April 29: 10 miles (G2/3) Devil's Pulpit circular. Cowbridge Town Hall Car Park 9am start.

More info at: www.valeofglamorgan-ramblers.co.uk.

Flowers for their 60th!



THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun John Clifford, is pictured (above) during a visit to Mr Thomas Lynch and Mrs Beatrice Lynch at their home in Barry – to present them with a basket of flowers on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Complaints against police are down 10%

COMPLAINTS against South Wales Police fell by more than 10 per cent in the last year, according to a report presented to the South Wales Police Authority.

"The figures, provided to the authority's Quality of Service group, show that the number of allegations dropped from 1,170 in 2010/11 to 1,047 in 2011/12 – a drop of 10.5 per cent," a police spokeswoman said.

"There was also a fall in the number of people who complained, from

642 in 2010/11 to 612 in 2011/12. Over the past four years, there has been an annual drop in complaints cases, from 774 in 2008/09."

Vice-chair of the police authority, and lead member for complaint issues, Mr John Littlechild, said:

"The figures of 1,047 allegations from 612 complainants is particularly pleasing when you put into context the number of the people who come into contact with South Wales Police each year."

"The number of people who complain about our service is a very small proportion."

AGM highlights Neighbourhood Watch importance

THE important role played by Neighbourhood Watch schemes across the Vale will be highlighted when the organisation holds its annual meeting on Wednesday, May 9.

The meeting will be held in the Civic Offices in Barry at 6.30pm, and any member of Neighbourhood Watch in the Vale is welcome to attend.

Deborah Gibbs, community safety manager, said: "The annual meeting is a fantastic opportunity for people involved in Neighbourhood Watch schemes to discuss the

successes of the past year and look forward to the year ahead.

"The Safer Vale partnership encourages Neighbourhood Watch schemes as an effective way of cutting down on crime and the fear of crime in the Vale.

"The meeting gives us an opportunity to meet the people behind the success of these schemes and thank them for their work in helping us make our communities safer."

For more information on the AGM or on Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Vale, contact Sabine Galton on 01446 450200.

Drop in centre's gift for pupils

THE Castleland Drop-In Centre Development Trust has sponsored 'fire and safety awareness activity booklets' for Gladstone School, Barry.

The booklets are designed by Security First to help children understand the importance of fire hazards within the home and school. Efty and Dalmo, the two fire fighting buddies in the book, help to get the message across.

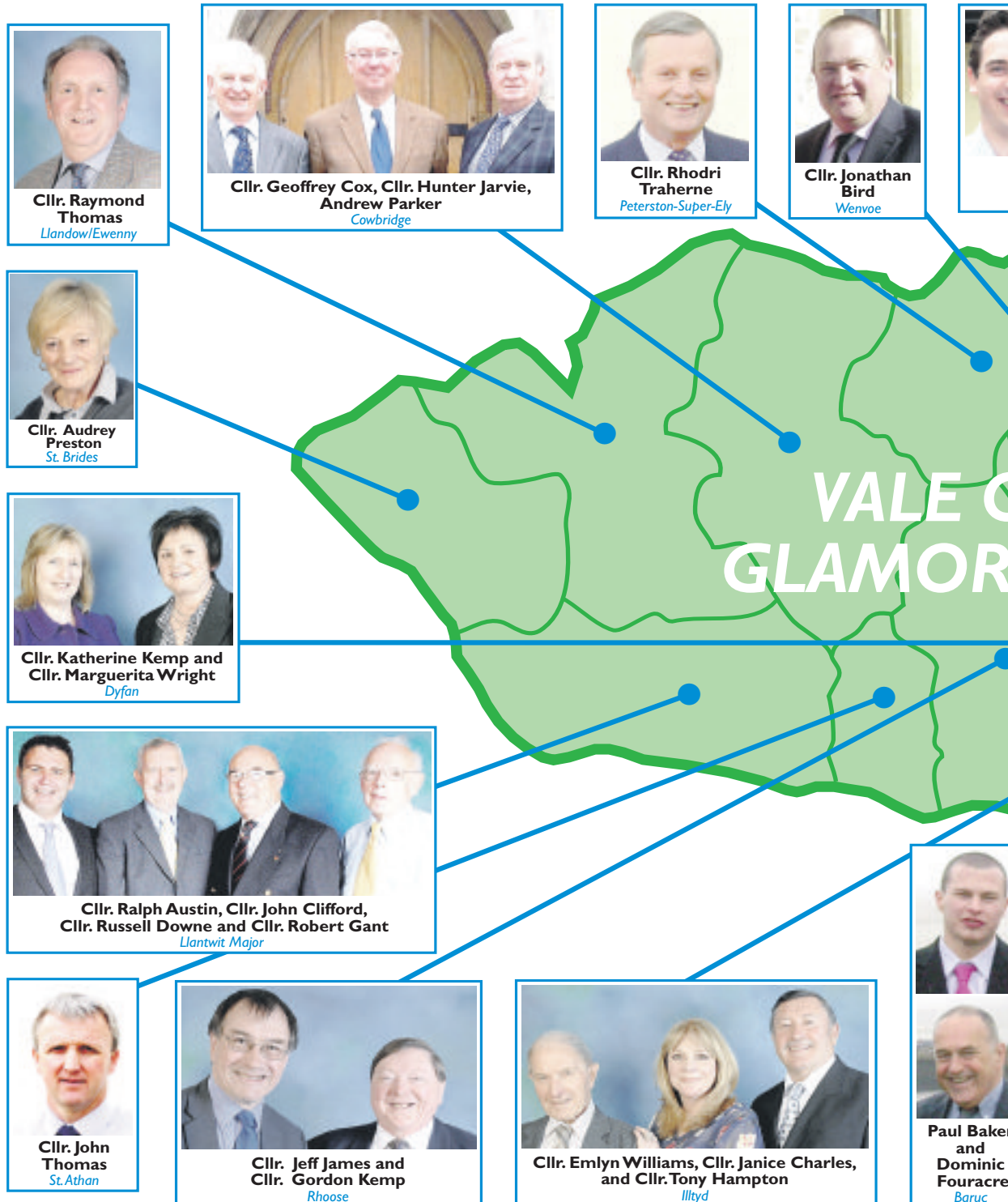
Eileen Moore, the drop-in centre manager, said: "I hope the children enjoy completing the activities in the book and that it will help to keep them safe in the future."

A RECORD OF DELIVERY

WE HAVE DELIVERED

- On our promise not to impose "excessive Council Tax rises"
- By helping to secure £9.0 million regeneration money for Barry
- By spending £15 million on improvements to north Penarth
- A new school for Cowbridge - the start of our school investment strategy
- By establishing Welsh medium seed schools in Barry and Llantwit Major
- By carrying out a review of the Council's senior management resulting in an annual saving of £510,000
- Through Creative Rural Communities £6.3 million to support tourism and local business
- By securing the construction of the first hotel to be built in Barry for many years
- By developing Barry Innovation Quarter to provide offices and workshops
- By working hard to secure a planning application to provide a cinema and indoor leisure facilities at Barry Island
- By securing the return of a Driving Test Centre to Barry

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This demonstrates not only our commitment to the Vale but our



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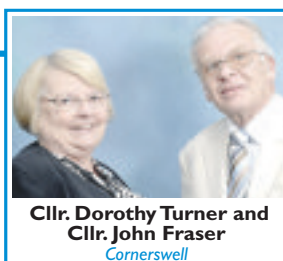
**Cllr. Vince Driscoll, Cllr. Robert Foxwell,
Nigel Streeter and Andy Robertson**
Dinas Powys



Ben Gray
Llandough



**Cllr. Sophie Williams
and Cllr. Paul Church**
St Augustines



**Cllr. Dorothy Turner and
Cllr. John Fraser**
Cornerswell



**Cllr. Sarah Sharpe and
Cllr. Anthony Ernest**
Sully



**Cllr. Ken Lloyd and
Christopher Williams**
Stanwell



**Thomas
Burley and
Michael
Harvey**
Buttrills



**Sophie
Traherne
and Sadie
Vidal**
Castleland



**Gillian Bruce, Lewis Davies and
Leighton Rowlands**
Cadoc



**Cllr. Maureen Kelly Owen
and Cllr. Clive Williams**
Plymouth

WE WILL DELIVER

- By investing £3 million on upgrading and revamping our leisure centres
- By upgrading our housing stock to achieve Welsh Quality Housing Standard and by continuing to consult with our tenants
- By investing £7.6 million over the next 3 years to carry out essential work on the Vale's highways
- By continuing to consult with you to ensure that your voice is heard on issues which are important to you such as the future use of Cemetery Road
- By increasing and simplifying recycling
- By tackling dog fouling and litter with strong enforcement measures
- By completing the Penarth Learning Community and improving the standard of our school buildings, particularly Llantwit Major Comprehensive
- By developing the V-Pod mobile youth provision
- By modernising library provision and developing community libraries
- By continuing to be open and transparent with you by publishing all expenditure over £500
- By working in partnership with other local authorities to deliver better and more cost effective services for you

...ncil what they did to the country'

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<p>MODS vs ROCKERS 60S TRIBUTE SHOW</p>  <p>FRI 8 JUNE 7.30</p>	<p>DISCOMBOBULATED</p>  <p>THURS 14 JUNE 8.00</p>	<p>BIG BBQ BASH WITH BIG MACS</p>  <p>FRI 6 JULY 7.30</p>	<p>BERT'S MAGICAL MUSICAL KITCHEN</p>  <p>TUES 17 JULY 1.30</p>

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ALL THOSE LIVING LOCALLY AND BEYOND, COME ALONG AND SUPPORT US, EXPERIENCE AND ENJOY

Cowbridge Charter Trust to push on with town wall renovations after funds granted by council

THE Cowbridge Charter Trust is to push on with plans to further renovate the old town walls surrounding Old Hall Gardens, after the Vale Council provided a grant of £6,693 to help them reach their projected target of £22,310.

The work aims to look at the old walls spread around the town, but primarily those surrounding Old Hall Gardens.

As well as cleaning up the walls by removing invasive plant life such as ivy, there are also plans to create two

visitor display boards to describe the work being carried out in the area.

There are also plans for associated landscaping to preserve wildlife and introduce native plants, renovation of the remaining stone boundary walls and a two-year maintenance plan to keep the walls 'in shape'.

Work in the future will include exploring the walls to find and restore the original medieval parts of the structure.

The initial £15,617 came from a 'Pride in our Heritage' grant, and now the Vale Council has made up the shortfall

the work can go ahead as soon as it is put in writing to the contractors.

Charter Trust chairman Peter Jones spoke to The GEM to explain the current situation.

He said: "At the moment we have a situation of stone walls and ivy together, which is never a good combination."

"We aim to create free-standing towers of ivy to compensate the loss of cleaning the walls, as well as providing nesting sites and habitat for other local wildlife nearby."

Mr Jones added that the Trust aimed to



Members of the Cowbridge Charter Trust involved with the work – committee member Richard Browning, chair of the gardens committee Linda Osborn, Betty Alden and John Sherwood (committee members) and Charter Trust chairman Peter Jones.

expand its involvement in Cowbridge and that there were bigger plans afoot to renovate other areas of the town.

"We want to keep our impetus going, to improve the entire area. Our work will out-flow from this and there are plenty of areas we will look to improve."

"The work will start next month and continue throughout the summer. It's good timing really. You can't work on the stone when it's too cold and icy, nor when the sun in the sky is too hot."

Gardens committee member John Sherwood outlined that sustainability was a top priority of the work.

He told The GEM:

Environment Wales grant to give the pond an island-like structure in the middle for introducing water plants.

"That will take place in the autumn as we won't have to do much watering, making it even more environmentally friendly," he explained.

Chair of the gardens sub-committee, Linda Osborn, stressed that the council had been co-operative, stating: "They are just strapped for cash. They still do the large jobs that we can't afford, like cutting dead trees away."

The work was best

summed up by Richard Browning, who stated: "We get great pleasure from this. It's good to be working together with people I didn't know before, or people I did know and had lost contact with. It feels like we're giving something back to the community."

And Peter Jones insisted that they will continue their work as this was part of a "continuing process", and that there are more projects in the pipeline going forward.

He added: "We will continue to expand our interest throughout

Cowbridge and I can't see why we can't have a contribution in benefiting Cowbridge."

If you would like to lend a hand and get involved, go along to the Old Hall Gardens on Thursday mornings from 9.30pm-12.30pm. All volunteers are welcome.

All tools are provided, but it is recommended that you wear suitable clothes and footwear.

"As well as getting in touch with the community, it's educational!" added Mr Jones.

LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

Max and Caryl in concert

THE spectacular line-up for the National Eisteddfod fundraising concert on May 26 at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, has become a real family affair.

Max Boyce, whose granddaughter attends Ysgol Pen-Y-Garth, Penarth, will headline the show and will be joined by fellow Welsh star Caryl Parry Jones, singer, songwriter, actor, scriptwriter and Children's Poet for Wales in 2007/8.

Joining Max and Caryl will be Caryl's two talented daughters, Miriam and Greta Isaac. Both Miriam and Greta were educated at Ysgol Bro Morganwg, Barry with Miriam being part of the very first intake to the school.

On leaving Bro Morganwg, Miriam

headed for Los Angeles, where she graduated from the Musicians Institute, Hollywood.

Her sister, Greta (16) is already making her musical mark and performed at last year's Swn Festival in Cardiff.

Mother Caryl and daughter Miriam are active members of the '405's' a popular close harmony group, but this concert will mark a big first when they are joined by daughter Greta to perform for the first time together in public.

The concert, which will be through the medium of English, is at 7.30pm on Saturday, May 26 in the Paget Rooms, Penarth. Tickets at £25 (£20 concessions) are available from Foxy's Deli and the Windsor Bookshop in Penarth, and are selling fast.

Sailing hopeful returns home to rally support

ONE of the country's top medal hopefuls for this summer's Olympic Games in London, sailor Hannah Mills, will be taking time out of her busy training schedule to head home to Cardiff where she hopes to meet local people to fly the flag for British sailing.

The visit is part of a wider celebration of Volvo's heritage and backing for British sailing – the country's top performing sport at three out of the last four Olympic Games.

Hannah aims to motivate the local community to support British sailing with a special event at Volvo Cars Cardiff on May 4, when she will talk about her career and her aspirations

for this summer to guests at the dealership in Penarth Road from 6pm.

Would-be attendees need to contact the dealership first as admission will be only to those on the guest list. They can be contacted on 029 20727474 (ext. 265).

Hannah, who will compete this summer with teammate Saskia Clark in the 470 Match Class, will also be visiting her former school, Howell's School, Llandaff, where she will talk to the youngsters.

She said: "I'm really excited to be visiting and inspiring youngsters at my old school, the local community and guests at Volvo Cars Cardiff."

"Hopefully, throughout the tour we can encourage everyone to become armchair sailing experts themselves!"

Difficulty Hearing?

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Time for Change at the Vale Council

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Cut the Council's Cabinet by 30% and use the savings to improve the services you require

Give the public the right to speak at Planning and Scrutiny Meetings

Give the public a bigger say on the things that really matter to them and listen to their views

A Labour run Vale Council will:

Invest in resurfacing and repairing our roads especially in urban areas

Introduce 'Grime Fighters' with the authority to tackle the dog mess, graffiti and fly-tipping

Reintroduce Traffic Wardens to deal with parking and traffic problems in our Towns

Vote

LABOUR

will SCRAP the

Local Development Plan

and consult to produce a

sustainable alternative

Labour

A Labour run Vale Council will:

Introduce a Council Tax Discount for those over 70 years of age, who are not receiving benefits

Introduce a Youth Mayor & Youth Cabinet, giving young people a say on the services they require

Reinstate a Mobile Library Service for those unable to go to Libraries

A Labour run Vale Council will:

Tackle this year's £3.5 million overspending in Social Services

Manage the Council's budgets and deliver value for money services more effectively and efficiently

Stop the savage cuts to services for the elderly, sick and vulnerable in our community

The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Cynigion arbennig yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol

GYDA thri mis a hanner i fynd cyn cychwyn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, cofi-wch am ein cynigion tocynnau arbennig eleni ar gyfer unrhyw un sy'n dod draw i'r Brifwyl.

Gellir prynu tocynnau Maes am bris gostyngol tan Gorffennaf 1 - ac mae'n ostyngiad o dros 10 per cent ar bris tocyn oedolyn. Mae'r rhain ar gael drwy ffonio'r linell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800 neu drwy fynd i'r wefan - www.eisteddfod.org.uk

Os ydych yn bwriadu dod i'r Maes am fwy na deuddydd eleni, beth am gymryd mantais o'r cynllun tridiau ar y Maes am bris deuddydd? Mae hwn yn gynllun newydd ar gyfer eleni, a'r bwriad yw cynnig gostyngiad i bobl

sy'n prynu nifer o docynnau Maes. Prynnwch docynnau ar gyfer deuddydd i'r Maes ac fe gewch fynediad am ddim i'r Maes ar ddiwrnod arall o'ch dewis. Felly, os ydych chi'n prynu dau docyn oedolyn a dau docyn plentyn dan 12 i'r Maes ar gyfer unrhyw ddiwrnod arall yn rhad ac am ddim, sy'n arbediad o £44.

Rydym yn ymwybodol iawn ein bod mewn cyfnod o gyni economaidd a bod arian hamdden Eisteddfodwyr, fel pawb arall, yn brin ar hyn o bryd, ond drwy siarad gydag ymwelwyr o bob oed, rydym hefyd yn gwybod bod pobl yn awyddus i ddod i'r Eisteddfod ac i dreulio nifer o dyddiau ar y Maes.

Gobeithio y bydd y cynnig hwn yn fodd

iddyn nhw wneud hyn, a dod atom i fyw'nghau yr Eisteddfod ym Mro Morgannwg. Cofiwch hefyd am ein Tocyn Wythnos ar gyfer y rheini ohonoch sy'n gobeithio treulio'r wythnos gyfan yn crwydro Maes yr Eisteddfod. Gallwch arbed hyd at 34% ar bris tocyn oedolyn am yr wythnos drwy brynu tocyn wythnos - arbediad o £46 yn ariannol - felly dyma fargen arbennig i unrhyw un sy'n mwynhau ymweld â'r Maes yn ddyddiol.

Fel enghraifft, byddai dau oedolyn a dau blentyn rhwng 12-18 yn arbed £140 (bron i 44 per cent) ar bris tocynnau Maes ar gyfer yr wythnos gyfan drwy brynu tocyn wythnos i'r Eisteddfod.

Am fanylion am y rhain i gyd ewch i: www.eisteddfod.org.uk neu ffonio'r linell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800.

Dilyn Dilys
MAE Dilys, y fan gamper fach

sgleiniog goch yn ymweld â'r Fro ddydd Iau Ebrill 26, i ddathlu mai 100 o ddyddiau'n unig sydd i fynd cyn cychwyn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg.

Bydd Dilys yn ymweld â Llanilltud Fawr ddechrau'r dydd cyn symud ymlaen i'r Barri ac yna'n treulio'r prynhawn yn Y Bontfaen, wrth i ddim yr Eisteddfod ddosbarthu gwybodaeth am yr Eisteddfod a gynhelir yn lleol mewn ychydig dros dri mis.

Meddai Elfed Roberts: "Diolch i bawb a ddaeth i gefnogi ymweliad Dilys â'r Fro ddiwedd Chwefror, a rydym i gyd yn edrych ymlaen i Dilys gael dychwelyd i'r ardal."

"Mae'r fan gamper wedi bod yn ffordd ardderchog o godi proffil yr Eisteddfod yn lleol a chreu ymdeimlad o wyl. Gobeithio y bydd trigolion yr ardal yn galw draw i ddweud



'Helo' y tro 'ma hefyd. "Bydd manyllion llawn y daith ar ein gwefan, www.eisteddfod.org.uk

Am ragor o wybodaeth am Dilys ei hun, ewch i: www.fan-goch.co.uk.

Special ticket offers for National Eisteddfod
WITH a little over three-and-a-half months to go before the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, remember that we've got a number of special offers on tickets for anyone planning to come to this year's festival!

Maes tickets are available at a discounted price until July 1 - and it's over 10 per cent discount on an adult ticket

price. These are available by ringing the ticketline on 0845 4090 800 or by going online: www.eisteddfod.org.uk

If you're thinking of coming to Maes for more than two days this year, why not take advantage of our three days for the price of two offer? It's a new scheme for 2012.

Buy Maes tickets for two days, and enjoy free entry to the site on a third day of your choice. So, if you buy two adult tickets and two tickets for children under 12 to the Maes for any two days, you'll be able to order tickets for up to two adults and two children under 12 for any other day - a saving of £44.

Like everyone else, we are very aware of the difficult economic climate, and that Eisteddfodwyr have less money to spend on leisure activities, and we are also aware, by speaking to festival-goers of all ages, that people are keen to come to the Eisteddfod and spend a number of days on the Maes.

We hope that this offer will help, and that many more will be able to join us at the Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan.

If you're planning on joining us for the whole week, our season ticket is the ticket for you. Save up to 34 per cent on the price of an adult ticket for the week by buying a season ticket - a saving of £46 - a bargain for anyone who enjoys coming to the Eisteddfod every day.

Two adults with two children aged 12-18 would save £140 (almost 44 per cent) on the price of Maes tickets for the week by buying season tickets.

For details about all these go to: www.eisteddfod.org.uk or ring the ticketline on 0845 4090 800.

Dilyn Dilys
DILYS, the little shiny red camper van, is returning to the Vale to mark 100 days to go before the start of the Vale of

Glamorgan National Eisteddfod.

Dilys will visit Llantwit Major, before moving on to Barry, and then spending the afternoon in Cowbridge, as the Eisteddfod team distributes information on the event.

Elfed Roberts says: "Thanks to everyone who came over to see Dilys at the end of February, and we're all looking forward to seeing Dilys again very soon."

"The camper van has been a great way of raising the Eisteddfod's profile locally, and of creating a festival feeling."

"We hope that people will come over again to say 'Hello' this time, as well."

"Details of Dilys' activities will be published online at: www.eisteddfod.org.uk For more information on Dilys, go to: www.fan-goch.co.uk GWENLLIAN CARR

Busy opening to a new year

NEWS FROM THE BARRY WI

THE usual meetings took place through January to April, including the sewing circle, keep fit, social afternoon and garden club.

The garden club went to Wenvoe Garden Centre for a coffee morning. On one of the social afternoons, we had an hypnotherapist who gave a talk and then demonstrated a relaxation lesson.

A tape was played, we were told to close our eyes and relax and then were spoken to softly. All the ladies enjoyed this as they felt really relaxed at the end.

The evening meetings started with January's visit from the rescue centre.

They brought with them a number of owls, explained about the centre and about the owls and what they did with them when rescued.

In February, the topic was 'Performing Poetry about Women.' Jan Price read poetry that she had written on various topics.

All proceeds would go to charity. In March at the St David's Supper, Pam and Sandra put on a buffet for the ladies (which went down well), and June did a Welsh quiz.

The ladies were asked to dress a hat - anything to do with Wales. The winner was Jackie, whose hat was decorated with daffodils,

Welsh flags and the WI logo.

April - This was the Link meeting, where we invite local WIs to attend. There were more than 80 ladies and the entertainment was the Ladies Oriana Choir from Cardiff. What wonderful voices.

They opened the meeting by joining us by singing 'Jerusalem' - you would have thought we were in the Royal Albert Hall!

The meeting closed with the Barry ladies serving tea, coffee and biscuits and the evening was a great success.

The next day (April 18) it was the GFWI half yearly meeting at the Memorial Hall.

The ladies of Barry were asked to serve the teas to visiting WIs from the Glamorgan area. There were around 480 ladies in attendance.

The speaker in the afternoon was Lowri Morgan, who showed a video and discussed her walks in the jungle in Brazil and the snow in the Arctic.

In May, we have a resolutions meeting followed by fish and chips.

The resolution to be debated in the Royal Albert Hall London is 'Employ more Midwives'.

For further information about Barry WI meetings, telephone 01446 410139. JC

THE TALE OF TELYNAU MORGANNWG...

AFTER many years making harps, attending eisteddfodau, exhibitions and general discussions with harp teachers and students, a thought came to my mind that it would be beneficial for harp students to meet collectively with harp teachers other than their own, to learn different techniques of playing, writes T Merlin Maddock.

Being a harp maker and not a harpist, I approached two friends of mine, Meinir Heulyn, then the principal harpist of the Orchestra of Welsh National, together with Gillian Green, peripatetic harp teacher for the Mid-Glamorgan Education Authority, with the view to holding a weekend course in harp playing techniques.

Having Tabernacl Chapel, Pontycymer, directly opposite my workshop (and with adequate parking), it appeared to be the ideal venue for an experimental harp-teaching weekend.

After many meetings, we decided to hold this event during the spring half-term of March, 1982. As we had no idea of the number of students applying, Meinir coerced Valerie Aldrich-Smith, principal harpist of the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra to help out.

The weekend turned out to be a resounding success, with 30 harp students in attendance - so much so, we held a further course the following Easter weekend - with a surprising greatly increased attendance.

With the increased number of students attending the second course, together with the majority coming from the mid and south Glamorgan area, it was agreed to find a venue that would be large enough and more central to hold further courses.

The College of Music and Drama at Cardiff appeared to be the ideal venue. In 1984, the harp school was named Telynau Morgannwg (The Glamorgan Harp Guild) and transferred to Cardiff.

The official opening began with a recital by Edward Witsenburg on April 18, 1984, followed by

Advice for carers

ANYONE caring for someone who has had a stroke, can talk to an advisor about support and services available in the area.

This session will take place on Thursday, May 3, at the Senior Health Shop, Age Concern, Barry, between 10am and 12 noon.

For further information, call 01446 732385.

a masterclass on April 21 at the Reardon-Smith Lecture Theatre, Cardiff.

Ever since those early days, courses, seminars, workshops and recitals by world famous harpists such as Nancy Allen and Marisa Robles have been organised by Telynau Morgannwg.

In 2002, Telynau Morgannwg celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Welsh College of Music and Drama with recitals given by Ieuan Jones, professor at the Royal College of Music, London, and Catrin Finch, formerly harpist to the Prince of Wales.

During the past 30 years, the organisation has out-grown the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Last Saturday (April 21) Telynau Morgannwg celebrated its 30th anniversary at its new venue - Theatre Soar, Merthyr Tudfil - with a record entry of 60 students; ages ranging from seven years to the mid 60s.

I was absolutely amazed by the enthusiasm and dedication of a Miss Chloe Roberts of Maes Glas, Flintshire, who had left home at 5am in order to be on time for the start of the course.

This in itself is proof enough of the high standard these courses have developed over the years.

During the lunch break, everyone present at the theatre was treated to a harp recital given by students of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, which included a performance of Salzedo's Dances and Parish Alvares' Introduction Cadenza and Rondo, performed by Hannah Stone, who is currently the royal harpist to Prince Charles.

An added bonus for yours truly was that I had the pleasure of coming face-to-face with a 36-string

student harp I built way back during 1976, which I must say was in prime condition and not approaching its sell-by date (like myself!).

On leaving the venue after an unbelievable day of mixed emotions and pleasurable music, together with a sea of smiling faces, I received a kind of 'Eureka' moment when one of the parents said: "What a wonderful legacy you've left, Merlin!"

It's a rewarding thought that Meinir and Gillian, together with the teachers over the years, have benefited many hundreds of students with these courses.

I sincerely wish to thank Meinir Heulyn and Gillian Green for their hard work and perseverance over the years in the development of our national instrument in Wales and, to coin a phrase that sums up their united efforts: 'large streams from little fountains flow, tall oaks from little acorns grow'.

My sincere thanks to all who have contributed in some way or another in furthering the development of Telynau Morgannwg and establishing it as an example to all other harp playing communities world-wide.

T Merlin Maddock MBE

FoBB meeting

BARRY-based environmental group 'Friends of Barry Beaches' will be holding its next beach clean on Sunday, April 29, at Watch Tower Bay, The Knap, by the mini roundabout at 3pm.

WHAT'S ON - in brief

Coastal path

THE 870-mile Wales Coast Path will be opened on Saturday, May 5, by Environment minister John Griffiths AM at Cardiff Bay.

It will run from the Welsh border, in the north, to Chepstow in the south, and it will become the world's first continuous coastal path around a country.

The event will start at approximately 11am and will feature Aber Valley Male Voice Choir, the St Clare's School choir and Duo-Flex Sound of Steel.

Details of the organised walks can be found on the Ramblers Cymru website (www.ramblers.org.uk).

Village meeting

A PUBLIC meeting is being held on May 16 at 7.30pm in Lower Penarth Community Centre, Brockhill Way, Cosmeston, Penarth, to discuss the future of Cosmeston medieval village.

Dog beach ban soon in force

The Vale's seasonal dog ban on beaches starts on May 1 and runs through to September 30.

Owners should be aware that it means dogs can't go on beaches at Southerndown, Llantwit Major, Cold Knap, Barry Island and Penarth.

It is an offence to bring a dog on any beach where the ban is

enforced. If caught, a person can face a fine of up to £500.

Senior enforcement officer at the Vale Council, Denny White, added: "People should also be responsible owners and clear up after their dogs."

"Once dog mess is bagged and tied, please use any council bin to dispose of it, or take it home."

This Cabin is a hellish (but cleverly built) property!

ONE thing that watching lots of films does, is to lower your ability to be truly surprised...

After all, we know that in a romantic comedy, the couple will always end up together, in an action movie good will triumph no matter how unlikely, and in horror movies attractive teenagers are a magnet for psychopathic murderers and the majority are unlikely to see the end credits.

So when a horror film comes along promising to offer something different then you ready your pinch of salt and give the filmmakers a chance. This is what is promised in *The Cabin In The Woods* where five friends (most notable Chris Thor Hemsworth) travel to a secluded cabin for a fun-filled weekend, not realising that horror will befall them - but not as you expect.

Comely teenagers? Check. Scary man warning you of dangers up the road? Check. The unmistakable sense of being in the wrong place at the wrong time? Check. So far, so predictable, but *The Cabin In The Woods* pays more than lip service to the notion of offering horror fans something different; the film is certainly a step above the majority

of slasher fare that is lapped up on a scarily far too frequent basis.

The film is one of those best seen with as little prior knowledge as possible, so don't go any further unless you have seen the film - not even a cursory peek! Starting in a starchy, white collar office where two workers (Richard Jenkins and the always-superb Bradley Whitford) shoot the breeze, you realise that this isn't your common or garden horror film.

Instead, over the course of its 95 minutes the film dances a merry jig between out and out horror and clever deconstruction of the genre and its clichés.

So we get a muscular jock who is a sociology major, the permanently stoned character who is more alert than any of the group and so forth; writers Drew Goddard and Joss Whedon take a rusty bear trap to what you think is going to happen and play with it, to fit their own agenda.

The film's biggest selling point is its deviation from where you think it's going, but that isn't to say the pair don't at least obey some of the rules.

The cast get offed at regular intervals in bloodshed that falls more into the *Halloween* territory rather than the torture porn of the likes of the *Saw* franchise, but it's what takes place

away from the teenagers' struggles that causes the most excitement.

Leaving you hanging on as information is drip fed through, the audience find themselves trying to discover just where the story is going - the answers are imaginative and throw things in a whole new light.

Goddard's direction is skilled, balancing the needs of the story with the lust for gore, and while the set-pieces don't exactly drip with invention they do at least serve the purpose of which they are required; while his cutting from one scenario to another is well-balanced, even if the conclusion does feel overly reliant on computer-generated imagery.

The cast are all solid, playing their stereotypical characters with a pleasing twist, with Kristen Connolly and, notably, Fran Kranz standing out the most, while Whitford and Jenkins' easy chemistry almost makes you forget just what their role in all of this is.

While cine-literate fans will find *The Cabin In The Woods* hugely nourishing, there is a danger that horror fans weaned on the likes of *Hostel* will find its gleefully disparate take on the genre a little too outside the box - that it's trying to be too clever in a marketplace where the classics of yesteryear are remade with reckless abandon and to diminishing returns.

Yet, as a thrill ride that takes you and wraps you up for its running time, *The Cabin In The*

SCREEN TALK



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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Woods is hard to beat and offers plenty inside its four walls... and beyond!
VERDICT: An interesting piece of work that delivers both horror and a level of intelligence, as well as a few laughs, *The Cabin In The Woods* is not your regular scary movie.

A clever script from Drew Goddard and Joss Whedon parlay into a satisfying piece of work that is a cut above the majority of films in this genre and plays itself very cleverly indeed.

Recommended.
SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:
The Evil Dead (1981),

Halloween (1978),

Drag Me To Hell (2009).

NFU's mad hatters!

WITH Ladies Day at Ascot drawing near, it was a hectic time for the Vale NFU ladies at Penllyn Village Hall recently.

Carolyn Campbell of Top Notch Hat Hire brought hats, fascinators and accessories of all shapes and sizes in a variety of colours, so

that the ladies were able to get their hats organised for the next big day or wedding. Fun was certainly had by all.

A vote of thanks was given by Mrs June Studley.

The next event for the ladies is a coach trip on May 15. JS

WHAT'S ON - in brief

Fun in store

TESCO Barry in Stirling Road, is holding a Wild 'n' Wet West day for its charity of the year, Cancer Research UK, on Friday, May 4 when 12 staff will be dressing up as cowboys/girls and offering customers a chance to throw water-filled sponges at them in stocks; see who is locked up in 'jail' and see volunteers sit in a bath of beans! The Barry Male Choir will be in attendance. Events will be spread out over the day from 10am-6pm.

May Day fayre

THE popular May Day fayre is returning to the Cogan rec near Penarth Leisure centre on Monday, May 7 between 2pm and 5pm, with games, stalls, entertainment for all ages.

Admission to the fayre is free and there is a mini Olympics competition for ages 11-14 and 15-18 year olds with trophies to be won.

Proceeds will go to Breast Cancer Care and the Fayre is being run as part of IgniteHope 2012, supported by several Penarth churches and other organisations.

Further information from Geraint on 07707539625 (stalls welcome - £5 per table).

NEW CHAIRMAN AT THE 41 CLUB HELM



ABOVE: At the recent Vale of Glamorgan 41 club AGM, held in the new Basil's restaurant in Cowbridge, Kerry Veale (centre front row) from Llanmaes was unanimously elected chairman for 2012-13. (PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK).

Wild west glamour as CAOS comes to town!



ABOVE: The Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society (CAOS) brought a touch of wild west glamour last weekend to Llantwit Major. They performed the popular Broadway musical, *Calamity Jane*, at the comprehensive school, with local girl Joanne Lee Mallett in the title role, and Nick Martin as Wild Bill Hickock.



PHOTOS
by ANDY
WICKS.

Dion (aged 12) makes Wales Open golf final



Dion Thomas is preparing to play at the Celtic Manor Resort in August.

YOUNG Vale golfer Dion Thomas (12) has qualified for the final of the Principality Junior Wales Open to be played on the 2010 Course at the Celtic Manor Resort in August.

The RAF St Athan Golf Club junior member secured his place in the event after coming through at Radyr Golf Club on April 13.

HISTORY SOCIETY'S SPECIAL MEETING

COWBRIDGE and District Local History Society's final meeting of the season will be on Friday, May 4 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

The talk is entitled 'George T Clark of Talygan' by Brian L James, president of Cowbridge Records Society.

It will be preceded by a special general meeting of the society to discuss the proposed merger with the Cowbridge Records Society and the new constitution. All members are urged to attend.

Artist to speak to Art Society

ON May 3, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome west country artist Robin Gray, who is chairman of the International Society for Speleological Art and has had over 40 one-man shows.

He uses a number of media and is also a very interesting and amusing speaker. Please note this is a change from the original programme.

The society meets at the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm) and visitors are welcome. For further details, see www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com.

Companion dog show

A COMPANION dog show held under KC Rules and regulations will be held on Saturday, May 12, at The Gathering Place, St Athan, in aid of the Vale of Glamorgan's Eisteddfod Fund.

Entries taken from 1pm, Ms Wendy Bebb will be judging at 2pm; cost £1 per class.

Pedigree Classes: a/v Puppy; a/v Sporting; a/v Non Sporting; a/v Open;

Best in Show.

Novelty Classes: Golden Oldies (dog over seven years); best cross breed; handled by a lady; handled by a gent; prettiest bitch; most handsome dog; waggiest tail; dog in best condition; dog most like owner; dog judge would like to take home.

Further details from 01443 225399. Email dogshows4u@aol.com

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 2 May 2012

 Vale of Glamorgan Council
  Newydd Housing Association
  United Wales
  Wales and West Housing Association



To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
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- Double glazing

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NARBERTH COURT, BARRY (REFERENCE 217524)

Suitable for a family

- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £92.33 per week including service charges

OAK COURT, PENARTH (REFERENCE 1088308)

Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 or over 55 with medical needs

- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor (with lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Manager

Rent £104.67 per week including service charges

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- First floor
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- Double glazing
- Scheme Manager

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Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets

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- Second floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden on site
- Parking

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TY GWENFO, BARRY (REFERENCE 1028779)

Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets

- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal entrance
- Parking

Rent £73.42 per week including service charge



HomeSwapper

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

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Front garden with patio • Driveway & garage.



Ty Gambig, Nells Point, Barry Island
Offers in the region of £159,950
Three bedroom ground floor apartment
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space • Garage • Security intercom system
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room onto terrace • Gas CH • Upvc DG.



Salisbury Road, Barry - £136,950
Well presented traditional bay fronted
2 bedroom mid terrace • West end of Barry
Lounge through dining room • Fitted kitchen
with integrated appliances • Modern bathroom,
walk in double shower • South facing enclosed
rear garden • Upvc DG & Gas CH



Llys y Coed, Woodlands Rise, Barry - £259,000
Well presented 4 bedroom detached • Situated
in a cul de sac • West End of Barry • Lounge
through to dining room • Generous size
conservatory • Kitchen/Breakfast room
Downstairs wc • Enclosed rear garden



Marine Drive, Barry - £359,950
Executive 4 bedroom detached • Cul de sac
location • 3 reception rooms • Kitchen/
breakfast room • Utility room and downstairs
wc • Ensuite to master bedroom • Enclosed
rear garden • Detached double garage
Driveway suitable for 3/4 vehicles



Y Cerigos, The Knap, Barry - £249,950
Modern executive two double bedroom first
floor apartment • set within a gated community
West end of Barry • Open plan in style
Modern kitchen with integrated appliances
Ensuite shower room and family bathroom
Decked balcony • 2 allocated parking spaces



Glan Hafren, The Knap, Barry - £117,000
Well presented 1 double bedroom ground floor
apartment • West End of Barry • Panoramic sea
views • Private entrance • Lounge/diner with
patio doors opening onto garden • Modern
fitted kitchen • White bathroom suite • Upvc
DG and under floor heating • Garage



St Osyth Court, Barry - £139,995
2 double bedroom detached bungalow • West
End of Barry • Would benefit from
modernisation • Lounge with access to patio
Kitchen with built in oven and inset hob
Bathroom with separate wc • Built in
wardrobes • Upvc DG & Gas CG • Private patio



Orchard Crescent, Dinas Powys - £289,500
4 bedroom semi detached • cul de sac location
Two reception rooms • Modern kitchen/
breakfast room • Bathroom & shower room
Downstairs wc • Upvc DG & Gas CH • Good
size rear garden • Off road parking • garage
(presently converted) • no chain



The Grove, Barry - £260,000
Traditional 5 bedroom end terrace family home
Situated on the edge of Romilly Park • Some
original features • 3 reception rooms • Kitchen
Downstairs shower room • First floor bathroom
• Upvc DG • Gas CH • Low maintenance rear
garden • Single garage to rear



Wenvoe Terrace, Barry - £139,950
3 bedroom end terrace property with views
across Barry and Bristol Channel • Situated in
the West End of Barry • Lounge through
dining room • Fitted kitchen with built in
cooker • First floor family bathroom • Gas CH
• Enclosed rear garden



Woodlands Road, Barry - £122,950
Traditional 3 bedroom terrace • Property
would benefit from some modernisation •
3 reception rooms • Modern fitted kitchen •
Downstairs wc and first floor bathroom •
Majority Upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed garden
• Garage with rear lane access • No chain



Y Cerigos The Knap, Barry - £299,950
Modern executive 3 double bedroom first floor
apartment • Set in a gated community • Open plan
lounge/dining room/kitchen • Modern fitted
kitchen with integrated appliances • 2 ensuite
and family bathroom • Heating/air con system •
2 decked balconies • Allocated parking • No chain



Rheidol Drive, Cwm Talwg, Barry - £234,950
Well presented 3 bedroom detached bungalow
• 20' 10" lounge/dining room • Fitted kitchen
• Bathroom and separate additional wc • Gas
CH • Upvc DG • Enclosed rear garden •
Driveway for 3 vehicles • Garage



Porth y Castell, Barry - £284,950
4 bedroom semi detached • West End of Barry •
2 reception rooms • Fitted kitchen with walk-in
pantry • 1st floor bathroom and separate
shower room • 3 bedrooms with sea views •
Upvc DG • Gas CH • Generous size rear garden
• Driveway and garage • Ideal family home



Oban Street, Barry - £99,950
2 bedroom bay fronted
mid terrace •
2 reception rooms •
Kitchen with
freestanding units and
cooker to remain •
Utility area, downstairs
wc • 1st floor
bathroom with
freestanding bath and
shower cubicle • Gas
CH • Majority Upvc DG
Enclosed rear courtyard
garden • Ideal first time
buy or buy to let
investment



Murlande Way, Rhose - £206,995
4 bedroom detached property • 3 reception
rooms • Modern kitchen with some appliances
to remain • Large conservatory • Downstairs
w/c, family bathroom and ensuite • Shower
room to master bedroom • Gas CH • Enclosed
private rear garden • No chain



Lon Fferm Felin, Woodlands Rise, Barry - £226,950
4 Bedroom detached • Cul-de-sac • Lounge
with double doors through to dining room •
Modern kitchen/breakfast room • Utility room
• Downstairs wc • Upvc DG & Gas CH •
Gardens to front and rear • Double driveway



Llys Gwent, Barry - £214,950
Well presented four double bedroom detached
Set in a cul-de-sac • East End of Barry • Lounge
Dining room • Kitchen/breakfast room •
Utility room • Family bathroom, ensuite to
master bedroom • Downstairs wc • Gardens
to front and rear • Garage • No chain



Gwalch y Penwaig, Barry Island - £179,950
Well presented modern 3 bedroom mid link
Lounge and conservatory • Modern extended
kitchen • Downstairs wc • 2 ensuite shower
rooms and family bathroom • Upvc DG & Gas
CH • Enclosed landscaped rear garden •
Garage and Driveway



Woodham Park, Barry - £114,995
2 bedroom end of link property • Situated off
Colcot Road • Lounge/Diner • Kitchen with built
in oven/inset hob • Sun lounge/lean to • Modern
first floor bathroom • Enclosed rear garden •
Double gates providing off road parking • main
bus route to Barry and Cardiff



Woodlands Court, Barry - £104,950
2 double bedroom first floor apartment • Views across
Gladstone park • Open plan lounge/kitchen/diner
Fitted kitchen with integrated washer/dryer • Modern
bathroom with Pshape bath with shower over • Built
in treble wardrobes to both bedrooms • Upvc DG •
Gas CH via combi • Communal gardens & parking



Walston Close, Wenvoe - £279,950
Spacious 4 bedroom detached dormer bungalow
• Generous size plot with front and rear gardens
• 2 reception rooms and 2 bedrooms • Fitted
kitchen • Ground floor bathroom and first floor
shower room • Upvc DG & Gas CH • Driveway
for numerous vehicles



Walker Road, Barry - £136,950
4 bedroom semi detached property • Two
reception rooms • kitchen • Downstairs shower
room and 1st floor bathroom • Upvc DG & Gas
CH • Enclosed rear garden • Potential for off
road parking • Far reaching views across Barry
Town towards Bristol Channel



Gerddi Margaret, The Waterfront, Barry - £157,950
Modern 3 bedroom semi detached property
Cul de sac • Lounge • Kitchen/diner with built
in cooker • Gas CH via combi • Upvc DG •
Enclosed south facing rear garden • Driveway
leading to single garage • No chain



Gelyn y Cler, Pencoeedre Village, Barry - £219,950
4 bedroom detached • 2 reception rooms •
Conservatory • Kitchen/breakfast room • Utility
room • Downstairs wc, family bathroom and
ensuite • enclosed south facing rear garden •
Double driveway for 2 vehicles • Garage



Fonnon Park Road, Rhose - £114,995
3 bedroom semi detached property • 24ft
2 inch lounge through dining room • Kitchen
with built in oven/inset hob • Conservatory •
First floor shower room • Gas CH • Upvc DG
• Front and rear gardens • Single garage and
parking space • No chain



Clos y Wylan, Nells Point, Barry Island - £209,950
3 bedroom semi detached property with panoramic
sea views • Lounge • Kitchen/breakfast room •
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Enclosed rear garden • No chain



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Family Notices

POWELL Lavinia Mary

Peacefully, on April 18 at her home in Llantwit Major, Lavinia, beloved wife of the late Roddy, dearly loved mother of Jane, Mary and David, dear mother-in-law of Mike, Mark and Gill, much loved gran and great-gran.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonon. Funeral Thursday April 26, service 11am at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12.45pm.
No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o Mrs C James, 11 Ffnonon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

PRICE Horace

Peacefully, on April 22, at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a short illness Horace, in his 93rd year, of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of the late Clare, dearly loved father of Anne-Marie, much loved grandfather (Gaby) of Rhian, Sian and Rhys, great-grandfather of Ethan, Phoebe, Martha and Poppy.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonon. Funeral Friday May 4, service and cremation 1.15pm at the Coity Chapel, Cychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.
Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired may be sent to a children's charity of your choice.

FREDERICK Stan

Peacefully on April 16th, Stan, loving husband of Carol, much loved dad of Julie, Alison and Stuart, much loved Bampi and Great-Grandad, treasured brother of Carol, brother-in-law of Mike, father-in-law of Claire and Glen. Funeral Service at Cychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, May 1st, 2012 at 11am.
Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

COPLEY Richard

Suddenly on 14th April 2012, Richard, loving husband, father and grandfather, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.
Funeral Service at St Mary Church on Monday, 30th April at 10.45am followed by cremation at Cychurch Crematorium.
Family flowers only.

CLOSE Mary Maureen

Arnold, Michael, David and Jacqueline would like to thank relatives and friends who attended Maureen's funeral, gave £229 of donations and offered kindness and messages of sympathy at their sad loss. Special thanks to doctors and nurses at Llandough Hospital for their dedicated care. The family are also grateful to Alan Pacey and the staff at A G Adams & Son Funeral Home, Barry, for their consideration and professionalism during this sad time.

NEWBY Eleanor Maureen

Peacefully, on April 16 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Maureen (Mo) of St Athan. Beloved wife of Leslie, dearly loved mother of Shaun and Nick, much loved by all her grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonon. Funeral Friday April 27, service and cremation 3.15pm at Cychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.
No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to St Athan First Responders, please make cheques payable to W James & Sons Charity Account, c/o J James, 11 Ffnonon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

REES Isaac Owen

Peacefully, aged 99 years, at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry, with loving family beside him.
Owen was for 64 years devoted husband of the late Dilys, much loved father of Jim and Jennifer, and much loved father-in-law of Sue and David, adored taid and great-taid and a favourite uncle and great uncle.
Resting at A G Adams and Son, Tynnewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his service at the Tabernacle Chapel, Holton Road, Barry on Friday, April 27th at 12.45pm, followed by interment at Porthkerry Cemetery.
Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to Ty Hafan, the Children's Hospice in Wales, or the RNLI.

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PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003
To whom it may concern.
We, Barry Athletic Ltd do hereby give notice that we have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a Premises Licence at Paget Road, Barry Island, Barry known as Barry Athletic Club Ltd.
The application is to vary the club premises certificate to allow the supply of alcohol and regulated entertainment between the hours of 1200 and 2330 and to permit music and dancing on permitted occasions.
Any person wishing to make representations in respect of this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.
A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application - the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.
AJ Oliver, Chairman
26th April, 2012

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'ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS LEARNED'



The winning team of Vale youngsters in Dubai.

Vale youngsters win prestigious football tournament in Dubai

PG10 COACHING junior football team from the Vale of Glamorgan, made up of pupils from years 7 and 8 at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morganwg, Cowbridge Secondary school and players from Dubai, have just returned from the Middle East where the team competed in a FIFA-regulated tournament – the 'Dubai international Super Cup', organised by Team Tours Direct.

The team competed against others from across the world from countries such as Africa, India, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and many more.

The team were the only one from the UK competing in the prestigious tournament and performed wonders by winning their respective age group, with Ysgol Bro Morganwg pupil Rhys Beynon being named PG10 player of the tournament.

Bolton Wanderers FC Chairman Phil Gartside

presented the team with their winning trophy.

The tournament was well supported with Argentinian legend Diego Maradona visiting, as well as former England internationals Trevor Sinclair and Carlton Palmer coaching junior teams from Dubai.

Peter Griffiths, head coach and manager of PG10 Coaching, said: "The tournament was a wonderful opportunity, not only for the players' football development, but it also provided the young people with essential life skills and the opportunity to learn about different cultures in a competitive and fun sporting environment."

"The players and I made new friends and waved the flag for Wales and the UK. To win the tournament is some achievement and will remain with the players for ever!"

For more information, contact: 07955 270870, or visit: www.pg10coaching.co.uk.

Amateur league Champions continue their winning streak

THE Major hosted second-placed Treforest at their Windmill Lane ground last week for their final home game of the season.

Having gone a goal down and losing their leading scorer and captain Lindsay early in the game to a knee injury, the Major went on to win 3-1 with goals from Lee Jones, substitute Aaron Vincent and a great looping shot from young Luke Dawes, who continues to impress. It put Llantwit 17 points clear and rightly confirmed their league champion status.

Then, on Saturday April 21, the Major travelled to Carnetown for their penultimate game of the season with four key players out through injury. The game got underway with both teams playing some good football and both keepers in action.

A clumsy tackle on Clement by the Carnetown central defender was punished by the referee who awarded a penalty. Leigh Pratt stepped up and placed his spot-kick straight down the middle, the keeper fortunately moving to his right, and the visitors took the

lead on 25 minutes.

The Llantwit lone striker, Mortimore, then took a knock and had to be replaced; The agile Clement moving up front alone and the midfield being reshuffled with Dawes coming onto the left.

Both teams continued to play good football and Lansdown, in the Major goal, made two or three excellent saves. Pratt was instrumental in midfield, controlling the play and helping the Major retain possession and a 1-0 lead at half-time.

The second half continued as the first had finished with good interplay from both sides and chances at both ends.

Andy Shaw, back from injury, made several good runs down the left side and both Cleave and Clement were guilty of missing headers from close range when they were left unmarked.

The impressive Dawes was having an excellent game, turning the home defence inside out with his clever skills and great pace and putting in some good crosses.

The Major brought on Wayne Faux for James Rees and Jacob Constant replaced Colm Garrett

in the back four. Keeper Lansdown made another great save, diving to his right and putting the ball out for a corner, which was subsequently cleared.

At the other end, Dawes continued to give the home defence a headache with his excellent footwork and pace and crossed with 10 minutes to go to find Clement in the clear, who scored a beauty.

The Major remain 17 points clear at the top with one game to go and have been beaten just once in the league this season.

Team: Tim Watts (manager), J Lansdown, A Shaw, A Vincent, N Cox, C Garrett, L Jones, D Cleave, J Rees, L Pratt, L Clement and J Mortimore. Subs: J Constant, W Faux, L Dawes.

This coming Saturday the Major play their final league fixture away at Trefelin BGC, kicking off at 2.30pm.

The club wish to thank the GEM and also their sponsors: Jaipur, Watts and Morgan, Keyline, Andy Cabs, BMC Digital, Eurgent and MPI Aviation, for their continued support.

PL

Boxers are on 'course'



The Cowbridge under-13s open try floodgates

COWBRIDGE under-13s completed the double against Pontyclun with a comprehensive demolition of their near neighbours by nine tries to one.

The visitors were quicker in all areas of the game and it came as no surprise when they opened the scoring with a well taken try by wing Seán Davies.

A second try soon followed when lock Otto Guwy forced his way over the line. A charge down by centre Joe Nott led to Sam John collecting the ball on the 22-yard line to score a third try.

Dan Bunney, who was in outstanding form throughout, scored tries four and five and Joe Nott scored the sixth on the stroke of half-time to leave Cowbridge leading by 36 points to nil.

At the start of the

second half pressure from Pontyclun and a lack of discipline by Cowbridge had the visitors penned in their own half and the home side eventually scored, when Ollie Rampling charged over beneath the posts for their solitary try.

However, a second try from Seán Davies soon settled the Cowbridge nerves and further tries by Joe Nott and Dan Bunney completed an excellent performance by Cowbridge.

Prominent in the backs were Rhys Beynon, Osian John and Dewi Bennett, while Matthew Keating, Charlie Martin and Josh Evans were the pick of the forwards; Duncan Ace kicked four conversions.

ML

The above photo shows Micky Dixon, coach for Llantwit Major Boxing Club, with members of the Cardiff Council Youth Service Street Based Youth Team.

The Llantwit Major club are working in their gym with young people, aged 11-25, many attending a 10 week program which involves a boxing teen fit course where young people learn about muscles, fitness and how to use fitness equipment safely and correctly.

Many of the young people involved have shown an interest in continuing with boxing after the program ends.

Llantwit Major Boxing Club members and clubs from South Wales will be participating in a boxing sparring night to be held in the Llantwit Major Rugby Club on Thursday, May 3. Admission £5 adults, £3 children and it starts at 8pm; please support your local club.

TM

Barry Youth pips Dinas

BARRY Youth continued their winning run by besting their local rivals Dinas Powys in this keenly contested derby.

In conditions not favouring running rugby, the home side showed more grit and determination in all areas to edge the game 8-7.

Wing Tom Adams gave Barry the lead in the first half with a try that went unconverted,

but Dinas stormed back with a try of their own to sneak into the lead as the conversion went over.

Fly-half Einar Scott held his nerve, however, as he stroked over a penalty to give his side the win their efforts deserved.

It was a particularly fine performance given that captain Luke O'Sullivan was called up by the 1st XV, and talented utility back Ethan Dix was with the 2nd XV.

KC

TOM WINS CLASSIC CUP

LLANHARAN'S Tom David had a weekend to remember.

On Saturday he won the classic Lady Dudley Cup at the Worcestershire Hunt Steeplechases on *Rosies Peacock*, and 24 hours later at Stratford took the John & Nigel Thorne Memorial Cup when landing the UK Hunters' Steeplechase on Sheila Crow's *My Flora*.

Rosies Peacock is owned, trained and bred by Pembroke's David Llewellyn, brother of dual-Grand National winning jockey Carl.

Rosies Peacock beat another Welsh horse, *Findlay's Find*, by a length, and was the first Welsh winner of the race since Peter Bowen's *Brunico* won in 1993.

Tom is the first Welshman to have ridden the winner of the race since Tim Bowen was successful on *Pride of Tullow* in 1987.

My Flora, a long odds-on favourite, won by nine lengths from *Armory House*.

WILLIAMS WINS BONVILSTON GRAND NATIONAL AGAIN

Nick Williams won his second Dunraven Windows Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National over three-and-a-half miles at rain-soaked Bonvilston last Saturday.

But unlike last year, when he won on Paul and Myfanwy Miles' *Findlay's Find*, he and his mount *Dear Villez*, a former inmate of champion trainer Paul Nicholls' yard, had fewer fences to negotiate as officials very wisely omitted two fences, and later three, owing to the rain-soaked ground on the approach to the obstacles.

The French-bred *Dear Villez*, owned and trained by Chloe Roddick, was made the even-money favourite and jumped the last of the 12 fences well ahead of the fast finishing *Gouranga Society*, whose rider Paul Sheard had notched up his first winner when winning this race on *ItsOnlyMe* in 2006.

The official distance was 12 lengths, and the runner-up snatched second place by a length from *Little Miss Monty* (Emily Farr). *Young Albert* (Bradley Gibbs) still had some sort of a chance when falling two out and *Stonebriggs Merc* (Joseph Williams) finished fourth. The other three runners (*Charango Star*, *Tiermore* and *Tom Bach*) all came to grief.

Dear Villez was the second leg of a double for Williams, which had been initiated when Dr Simon Clarke's 11-year-old *Diddle 'Em*, always prominent, won the confined by eight lengths from *YetHolm* (John Norman).

The favourite *Molon Labe* (John Mathias) was leading approaching the second last fence only to fall.

16-year-old Charlotte Prichard brought her season's tally of wins to seven from just 15 rides when taking the hunt race on *West Bay* and the restricted on *Wilkinson*.

There was not much between David Davies' *West Bay* and Keith Prichard's *Prince Eleanor* (Nick Williams) when they jumped the last but the latter, the odds-on favourite, was clearly more tired and took a tumble.

The judge marked his card 'Finished Alone' but last year's winner *Celtic Boy* (Laura Grey), who had apparently been guided around the obstacle by a fence steward, and unknown to the judge, rode into the place

reserved for the runner-up and the judge's result was later changed.

Wilkinson, owned and trained by former point-to-point rider Nick Tamplin, jumped the last upsides *No Reason Why* (Rachel Leyshon) and went on to win by just over a length. The nine-year-old will probably run next at the Tredegar Farmers' meeting on May 5.

Abergavenny's Chris West made it three wins on the bounce when winning the novice riders' race on his *Kilshanna*, backed from 5-1 to 5-2. *Kilshanna* had a length to spare over *New Little Bric*.

Biggest cheers of the day were for Bridgend builder Roger Willcox, who won the maiden race with his seven-year-old bay gelding *Traditional Bells*. Well ridden by Evan David (19), who rides out for David Brace, *Traditional Bells* who was completing the course for the first time this season – although he could be forgiven his previous race as he was unseated by a huntsman's horse; ran out a 25 lengths winner from *Misty Haze* (Byron Moorcraft) at odds of 10-1.

Mr Willcox admitted to backing his horse but said he didn't have as much on as he had the last time it ran. Backers of the odds-on favourite *Duke Of Croatia* (John Mathias) didn't have much of a run for their money as it came down at the third fence.

Considering the wet weather the crowd seemed a decent one and enthusiasts will now be looking forward to the Countryside Alliance (Wales) fixture here on June 4.

BRIAN LEE

Latest point-to-point draws the crowds to Bonvilston on a day of thrills – and spills

THE point-to-point season is well under way and the latest venue for the horses and riders was at Bonvilston in the Vale last Saturday.

The weather was perfect for the meeting with clear skies and sunshine, but spectators wisely wrapped up to ward off the brisk wind.

As can be seen from GEM photographer Glyn Evans' vivid action shots, there were one or two fallers, although most of the races went off without any mishaps.



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are
available from this event.

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Think of C4 and explosives spring to mind

It is, perhaps, a little optimistic to expect the Citroen C4 to deliver this type of performance, but the 2-litre HDi model tested packs a powerful 150bhp punch nevertheless.

In the week when Francis Maude MP advised everyone to stockpile fuel in jerry cans, and petrol stations closed as motorists panicked unduly, the economical Citroen C4 was an excellent vehicle to drive.

It returned well over 50mpg, much to the

Chancellor's frustration. Many spectators questioned whether the run on the pumps was in fact engineered by our out of touch leaders.

What else does a cash-strapped Government do when it has a shortfall to meet at the end of the tax year?

The poor motorist is such an easy target. Some despicable garages saw fit to actually increase the cost of their fuel during this torrid time by as much as 15 pence a litre.

These operators have kept their artificially inflated prices, too. Needless to say, the

need for efficient cars has never been greater.

To this end, I cannot fault the C4. According to Parkers, the car experts, it does have its faults, though: "The quality of the interior is poor and it doesn't feel particularly well put together, while the over-assisted steering and vague (six-speed) gearbox mean it's not rewarding to drive."

I take issue with this statement, finding the interior well finished. It's a decent driver's car, which can be enjoyable at faster speeds and through the bends.

The C4's distinctive styling makes it stand out from Ford, Vauxhall and VW. Not dissimilar to the Peugeot 308 especially from the rear, to some it might be an

Motoring with Tim Saunders



ABOVE: THE CITROEN C4

acquired taste. The large chrome two chevron Citroen logo takes pride of place in the centre of the grille.

As soon as you sit in the driver's seat a homey feeling comes over you.

I've never felt this in a car before but put it down to the fact that the seats are positively sofa-

like – they feel like your favourite seat at home, springier and bouncier than usual car seats and excellent for soaking up the bumps.

These suede and fabric seats are leather edged – added to which, the dashboard is interestingly crafted from more of a rubber than a plastic, which is often

the case.

Lock the car and the wing mirrors automatically fold, a helpful feature if parking on a roadside preventing them from being knocked.

But this could be improved if they automatically folded when the boot was opened – without requiring the car to be locked – providing peace of mind for those unloading at the roadside. It has a capacious boot, too.

There's no traditional handbrake, instead a small switch.

Personally, I find this a little awkward: firstly, there's a delay in waiting for it to engage and secondly, there's a hill brake that the driver has to put their faith in.

This is by no means

peculiar to Citroen, but I remain unconvinced.

The dash's digital display takes a little getting used to simply because it is quite a bit different to other cars.

But it doesn't take long to realise where the fuel gauge is and you quickly feel at home.

The C4 certainly has a unique personality. Its indicators 'bleep' differently to most and there's a particularly futuristic noise emitted if a seat-belt is not strapped.

There is a useful blind spot alert on the wing mirrors similar to that found in a Volvo – a red light flashes on the

wing mirrors.

All in all a strong driver's car offering an engaging driving experience and economical to boot.

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Tim Saunders would like to hear from any BMW X5 owners for their input into a project he is working on. Photos gratefully received.

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Calling Park runners!

RUNNERS are invited to sign up now for this year's Parkwood Porthkerry Five on Sunday, May 13.

Set in the stunning scenery of Porthkerry Park in Barry, the five-mile multi terrain course challenges runners of all abilities to tackle fields, hills, roads, woodland and coastal paths.

The event, organised by Penarth and Dinas Runners, is sponsored by Parkwood Leisure based at 'Cardiff International Pool'.

Potential entrants are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible as the race is limited to 300 runners and the closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 9. Proceeds from the Porthkerry Five will be donated to Penarth & Dinas Runners chosen charities for 2012, CAVRA and Thrive (Cardiff).

There are many ways to enter the 2012 Parkwood

Porthkerry Five. You can pick up an entry form in person from the reception area at Cardiff International Pool or from any of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's leisure centres, you can email porthkerryfive@hotmail.co.uk, or call Andrew Palmer on 07803 356519.

Alternatively, you can enter online via www.runnersworld.co.uk or download an entry form at www.penarthanddinasrunners.org.uk

Penarth and Dinas Runners meet every Monday evening at 7pm at Penarth Leisure Centre during the winter months, and at the Ranger Station in Cosmeston during the summer.

Penarth & Dinas Runners are a small but enthusiastic group of runners of all abilities, and new runners are always welcome.

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CYCLISTS STAGE A SPECTACLE IN BRIDGEND AND VALE ROAD RACE



HUNDREDS of cyclists provided a colourful spectacle as they snaked their way along the roads of Bridgend county borough and the Vale last Sunday evening.

The race, which started and ended in Corntown, also took in the Cowbridge and Llantwit Major areas.

As you can see from photographer Glyn Evans' record of the event, there were moments of high drama along the way.

To add a rather cruel twist, the organisers had arranged for the finishing line to be at the top of the hill in Corntown!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are
available from this event.

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Century for Tim!



ABOVE:
Grand National Day was a landmark day for Aberthyn trainer Tim Vaughan. His horse, Saint Are, won the John Smiths Handicap Chase, notching up Tim's 100th winner!
(PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK)

Karate kids' fundraising boost



A G Adams Funeral Directors in Barry, have supported an appeal by a local karate dojo to raise funds to purchase special safety mats.

The funeral home purchased 10 of the red and blue safety mats, as well as providing a limousine for the day as a prize,

to assist with fundraising. The lucky winner was taken to Bristol for a special evening, then collected the next day.

The Vale Karate Dojo has classes on each weekday except Thursday and Sunday and is situated in The Hub on Gladstone Road in Barry.

Rob and Cathy Copeland run the courses and cater for children aged four years

through to adulthood, as well as children with special needs. In the picture with the children sitting on their new mats are Robert Fouracre and Alan Pacey from the funeral home, who were invited to a training session to see for themselves how important these mats are for the children's safety while at the dojo.

AT

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03 SMART City Pulse Auto
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08 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.6 SRi 3-dr
In black, air con, 55,000 miles
£5,995



07 CITROEN C4 1.6 HDi VTR Coupe
in light met blue, 55,000 miles, diesel at
£,995



55 RENAULT Clio 1.6 Dynamique S
In burnt orange, air con, 59,000 miles
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08 VW Golf 2.0 Diesel GTi Sport Auto 5-dr. In black, 64,000 miles, superb example £9,995
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06 PEUGEOT 307 2.0 Diesel Convertible Sport. In met blue with cream leather, 53,000 miles £6,795
03 BMW 325 2.5Ci M-Sport Convertible Auto. Silver, 79,270 miles £6,495
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51 MERCEDES SLK 200 Auto. In silver with black leather, 56,000 mile convertible at £4,995
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54 MAZDA RX8 (192) 4-dr. Black, 69,000 mile sports coupe £3,995
54 FORD Focus 170ST. In met blue, 64,000 miles, A/C etc. £3,995
52 NISSAN X-Trail 2.0 Sport 4x4. In White, full glass roof, multi CD £3,695
53 SMART Convertible Passion Auto. Met blue/silver, limited edition model £3,295
56 MG ZR 120+ 3-dr. Met red, 36,000 miles, 1 owner £3,295

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55 TOYOTA Corolla CLR 2.0 Diesel 5-dr. In platinum metallic, 62,000 miles £5,995
07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Design 3-Dr. In Tonic silver, 47,000 miles, 1 owner £5,495
56 FORD Focus 1.6 Sport 5-dr. In silver, 51,000 miles, 2 owners, a/c, alloys £4,995
07 56 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.9 CDTi 120 Club. In black, 92,000 mile diesel, 7 seater £4,995
07 CITROEN C4 1.6 HDi VTR Coupe. In light met blue, 55,000 miles, diesel at £4,995
07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SXi 3-dr. In black, 63,000 miles, air con £4,995
59 CHEVROLET Aveo 12LS 5-dr. In silver, 21,000 mile hatch at £4,995
55 FORD C-Max 2.0 Ghia Auto. In met grey, 71,000 miles, fantastic value at £4,995
57 SKODA Fabia 2 1.4 5-dr. In black, 60,000 miles with air con, cd, alloys £4,795
07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique (new shape) 3-dr. In black, 75,000 miles, 2 owners £4,495
07 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 VVT Life 5-dr. Tonic blue, automatic, 56,017 miles, A/C £4,495
56 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Club. In met blue, 44,000 miles, low insurance £4,495
56 PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-dr Auto. In black, 56,000 miles, alloys etc. £4,495
06 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Privilege 5-dr. In red, 44,000 miles, high specification £4,495
06 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5-Dr. In met silver, alloys, air con etc. £4,495
07 CITROEN C1 Rhythm 5-dr. In red, £20 road tax and low insurance £3,995
56 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.3 CDTi Diesel SXi 3-dr in met grey, 71,000 miles, 1 owner £3,995
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03 SMART City Pulse Auto. In black, low running costs + £30 road tax £2,995
52 SMART City Pulse Automatic. In grey/black two tone, 36,000 miles, a/c £2,995
51 SMART Passion 600 Auto (Left Hand Drive). In red/silver, 52,000 miles £2,495
01 MAZDA Premacy 1.8 Atlantis. In met-blue, 43,000 mile, local MPV £1,995



05 SKODA Fabia 1.2 5-dr
In silver, 60,000 miles
£3,495



04 VW Golf 2.0 S Diesel 3-dr
In platinum silver, 38,000 miles
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GEM sport

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Police have Georgia on their minds



ABOVE: South Wales Police RFC recently hosted the Georgia Development team for several days training at Waterton Cross. Lindsay Griffiths, the club's honorary secretary presented Captain Gugui Lexso with a club tie before they left to take on a Premiership Team at The Brewery Field, Bridgend.

BS



Tae Kwon Do Federation of Wales held its first tournament on Sunday, April 15.

Series 1 was a successful event with over 95 competitors of all ages and was held at Pencoed Comprehensive School.

The day started with some very

impressive patterns. The sparring category was very strong with some exciting fights.

The day ended with all competitors doing a special display of techniques with very good jumping front snap kicks.

One of the organizers, Leanne Casley, said: "Series 1 was such a

success that they will be holding Series 2 in September 2012, with the prospects of holding three competitions next year."

For further information about Tae Kwon Do or competitions please contact Leanne Casley on 07921312897.

JH

PENCOED RFC ROUND-UP

Under-strength, but Seconds still cruise to deserved victory

Pencoed Second XV's pace behind the scrum was the essential difference between the sides in their 34-3 win over Nantymoel seconds, though the home side were left under strength due to last minute 1st XV calls.

Pencoed opened the scoring through Valley boy Nicky Hawkins following a well controlled drive by the pack.

Play was to and fro during the half with Pencoed forwards Dean Henson and James Murphy prominent in the forward exchanges.

A 70 metre counter from Pencoed involving Jamie Williams, Aaron Songhurst and Liam Halse almost breached the Nantymoel defence, the home side did well to keep their line intact.

Pencoed picked up a yellow card on the stroke of half time and led 0-5 at the interval.

Mike James kicked a 40 metre penalty for Nantymoel early in the half but Pencoed's response was immediate.

Flanker Murphy, now acting as emergency left wing, took a blindside

pass from scrum half Tom Davies to go outside his opposite number and cross wide out for Pencoed to lead 3-10.

Then came a key moment in the match, as Nantymoel missing a golden opportunity to score under the posts, spilling the ball with the line at their mercy.

Pencoed quickly countered up the length of the field for substitute Glen Hiscocks to canter in; Davies converted.

What could have been 10-10 was now 3-17 and a turning point in the match.

Pencoed's pace behind was now becoming more evident, and taking advantage of a home yellow card, Ken Morris was sent sprinting away to score, and Pencoed led 3-22.

Pencoed added further tries through Hiscocks and Morris - Davies adding a conversion for a final score of 3-34, the result not reflecting the efforts of the home side.

On Saturday the Second XV play a home league semi-final after finishing top of the league at the Recreation ground, 2.30pm kick-off.

The Youth XV gained a hard earned 15-12 win

over Ystrad Rhondda, a leading Blues region side.

Blaenau Gwent Ladies 5 Pencoed Phoenix 22

Phoenix travelled to face Blaenau Gwent ladies expecting a physical encounter following their previous meeting.

However, this match was full of good rugby and played in the right spirit, Phoenix recording a season's double over their vastly experienced opponents.

The home side opened the scoring through their dangerous scrum half who beat several Phoenix defenders to score from 20 metres.

Phoenix flanker Natalie O'Shea then set up the equalising score, breaking in the home 22 before passing to back row colleague Amy Stevens who dummied the stretched home defenders to cross wide out.

The teams were locked at 5-5 at the interval, a fair reflection of the half.

A Stevens' kick and chase put Phoenix into the home 22 and follow-

ing further pressure skipper Marina Newth took a quick tap penalty and good hands sent Seward in at the corner. Phoenix were now playing a more expansive game and threatening out wide.

Right wing Jo Poupon then got the individual try of the match, receiving the ball around half way on the touchline, Poupon then swerved in field past three defenders for a superb score at the posts. Hughes converted and Phoenix led 5-17.

Replacement Jade Mullen then countered 70 metres taking play to the Blaenau Gwent try line and sustained Phoenix pressure was rewarded with Mel C outpacing the home defence on the outside for a try which brought up the final scoreline of 5-22.

Phoenix flanker Natalie O'Shea, a constant thorn in the Blaenau Gwent side, was chosen by her opponents as the Phoenix player of the match.

On Sunday Phoenix are scheduled to meet Tylorstown at home in the league, 2.30 kick off.

TR

Former Tondur star crosses over to league

FORMER Tondur RFC star Rory Pitman has left the Ospreys, switching codes and turning out for the South Wales Scorpions Rugby League Club.

The 22-year-old back row forward in Union will be a big boost to the Scorpions as they continue their charge for promotion ahead of their match against Whitehaven at The Gnoll in Neath this Sunday (kick-off 3pm).

He joined the Ospreys as an under-16s player before graduating to the under-18s and under-20s before spending a summer season playing rugby union in the Taranaki region of New Zealand.

Pitman turned out for the Ospreys first team in the Magners League in the 2007-08 season and played for them again this year after spending time on loan with league rivals Glasgow Warriors earlier in the campaign.

While on the Ospreys' books, he played for two seasons at Bridgend Ravens Rugby Union Club before making appearances for Swansea RFC.

He also played for Wales at under-16 and under-21 level.

"We're delighted to have Rory at the Scorpions," said coach Dave Clark. "He is a strong, tough forward and will make a massive difference to our pack."



Former Tondur RFC player Rory Pitman has left the Neath/Swansea Ospreys to join Rugby League side South Wales Scorpions.

"We can't wait to see him in match action now and he's competing well for a place in the team to face Whitehaven at The Gnoll this Sunday."

South Wales Scorpions are selling cut price tickets for their next two games - a "Cumbrian Invasion Double Deal" - if bought in advance, starting with this Sunday's match. For more details, go to: www.scorpionsrl.com/.

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